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ERIC BEHRENS

Long Political Ordeal for Haitians

As evidence mounts that Haiti's military regime has stepped up repression of citizens, the US signals readiness to impose extra sanctions. This woman lives in Cite Soleil, where backers of the ousted president staged protests. **PAGE 3.**

US Leadership May Be on Line With Russian Aid

But bid to boost support faces stiff opposition in the US Congress and European capitals

By Amy Kaslow

Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON

WHILE President Clinton is pushing his domestic agenda at home this week, Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen is traveling abroad to bolster what the White House calls its top foreign-policy goal.

Today Mr. Bentsen meets with Russian leaders in Moscow, where he will drive home Washington's commitment to helping their fledgling market economy and press for more reform.

Bentsen's trip comes at a difficult time for Washington's new foreign-policymakers, who have been criticized for wavering in their formation of Bosnia policy. They are also on the defensive about comments from State Department official Peter Tarnoff, who told reporters last week that Washington's deferral to European powers on Bosnia reflects a more isolationist mode of US foreign affairs, one in which the United States is likely to take a back seat on many issues.

Using US initiatives on Russia as a springboard, Secretary of State Warren Christopher has since tried to nullify Mr. Tarnoff's comments. In a University of Minnesota speech, he framed the aid issue in terms of US status around the world: "The need for American leadership is undiminished ... where collective responses are more appropriate, we will lead in mobilizing responses. But make no mistake, we will lead."

While Mr. Christopher underscored the leadership theme some two dozen times during his speech, it is unclear just how much support the Clinton administration can muster, either domestically or overseas, to assist the ex-Soviets.

On Capitol Hill, Mr. Clinton faces stiff opposition to his $1.8

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South Korea's Kim Wins Plaudits For Anticorruption Campaign

New president's popularity high as he targets military and politicians

By Clayton Jones

Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

TOKYO

FOR decades, South Koreans were told by military-dominated regimes that their paramount foe was North Korea.

But Kim Young Sam, the nation's first civilian president in 32 years, has won immense popularity by proclaiming that corruption is now Public Enemy No. 1.

And 100 days into his term today, Mr. Kim has made a rapid start in rooting out corruption from almost every corner of South Korean society.

From military top brass to his own associates, his government has fingered about 1,000 officials for misdeeds, or forced them to resign for having unexplained wealth.

Even prosecutors have been arrested. "Unless corruption is eliminated we cannot build a new Korea," says presidential spokesman Lee Kyung Jae. His aides claim that South Korea may become a model in Asia for democracy and official virtue.

Kim's popularity, according to newspaper surveys, is above 70 percent, while more than 85 percent of South Koreans welcome his reformist policy.

One of his first acts after taking office Feb. 25 was to declare he would not play golf, a sport considered exclusive to the rich in Korea.

But the fast pace and broad scope of his "moralism" campaign, which is driven by a popular resentment against past rulers, has also raised eyebrows among critics, who warn that a despot may be in the making.

See **SOUTH KOREA** *page 4*

Schools Across US Grapple With Prayer at Graduation After Supreme Court Ruling

By Laurel Shaper Walters

Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

BOSTON

IT'S graduation season again and controversy is in the air.

Last year, the United States Supreme Court ruled that school-sponsored prayer at public high school graduations violates the separation of church and state. The case, Lee v. Weisman, involved a Rhode Island high school that invited a rabbi to deliver nonsectarian prayers.

Now, school districts nationwide are wrestling with whether the ban applies to student-led prayers.

In March, the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), established by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, sent out 15,000 letters to school districts across the nation arguing that graduation prayers initiated by students are not forbidden by the ruling. Mr. Robertson's center has offered to help parents and students sue any school board that bans student prayers at graduations.

"We think student-led, student-initiated prayers are permissible, and conditions for them have been expanded by the appellate court ruling in Texas," says Jay Sekulow, counsel for ACLJ.

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Rejoicing In Guatemala
But after the military ousted a discredited president, people await confirmation of return to civilian rule.
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Jobless Rate In Sweden Moves To Europe's Average
Government programs try to keep the unemployed active.
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A culinary education propels would-be chefs into new jobs.
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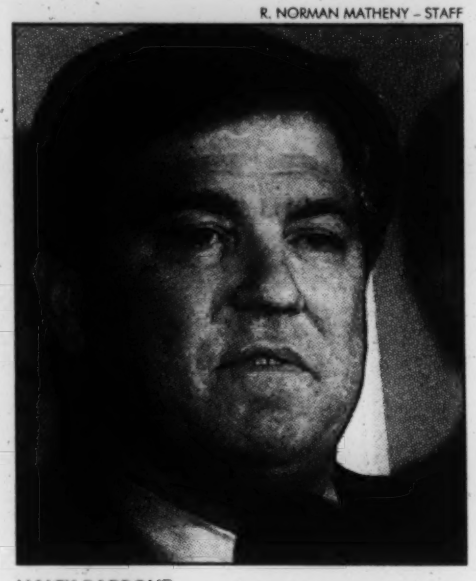


HALEY BARBOUR

GOP Head Says Clinton Plan Is 'Ball and Chain' On Democrats

REPUBLICAN Party chairman Haley Barbour says bad economic policies, not expensive haircuts, are dragging down President Clinton's popularity with voters.

"I don't think P.T. Barnum can sell this program," says Mr. Barbour, referring to Mr. Clinton's $1.5 billion economic package now before Congress.

WASHINGTON WATCH

The president's budget includes sharply higher taxes on people who earn over $100,000 a year, and increased energy taxes which will cost a typical family about $400 a year.

Mr. Barbour, a lawyer/lobbyist who took over the GOP in January, says the proposed $71.5 billion rise in energy taxes is particularly irritating for the country's middle class, which was promised a tax cut during the presidential campaign.

Barbour, who spoke with reporters at a Monitor breakfast yesterday, says he opposes all tax increases – a position shared by most GOP members of Congress.

The chairman says Clinton's slumping popularity could help Republicans this weekend, when Texans vote on their next US senator.

The Republican candidate, state treasurer Kay Bailey Hutchison, is heavily favored over interim Sen. Bob Krueger, a Democrat.

Barbour says the president's "tax and spend" budget is acting like a "ball and chain" on Senator Krueger's campaign.

With the next election cycle about to begin, Barbour says Democrats are growing anxious about Clinton's repeated calls for new taxes.

That's why Congress will delay action on the president's health care plan, which could include taxes increases of as much as $150 billion to $200 billion, he says.

– John Dillin

NATIONAL

California Rethinks Water Issues

With long drought over, state focuses on new methods of conserving precious resource

By Daniel B. Wood
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

WILLOWS, CALIF.

AMERICA'S largest farm state, producer of half the nation's fruits and vegetables, has had six years of drought temporarily slaked by the biggest flurry of storms in years.

But the time to reinvent from the top down has come for a burgeoning number of private growers, environmentalists, and bureaucrats – visionaries and stick-in-the-mud type, alike. They are coming out of the ground like worms after a rain.

"This is the greenest I've seen the state in 20 years," says rice farmer Allen Garcia, sitting in a small plane flying over the Sacramento Valley in full bloom. "But if we don't plan for the next 20 years, California agriculture will be a dying business."

Farmers have long enjoyed 80 percent of the state's water, while 20 percent has been divvied up by urban dwellers and recreational users. Drought, federal crackdowns to save endangered species, and burgeoning population needs are changing all that.

To cope with the influx of 18 million new inhabitants since the late 1960s, California has paved over more farmland than the area of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey combined. Twenty million more inhabitants are expected by 2010, and the time has come to prepare for where they are going to live and what they are going to eat and drink, Mr. Garcia says.

What is decided here has major implications for the price of everything from almonds to alfalfa, beans to barley, in supermarkets across America.

Because he peppers his conversation with phrases like "coordinated resource planning," and "multiple-use, sustainable agriculture," Garcia has been labeled a progressive by environmentalists. Twenty years ago, he was growing rice in ways that only last year became a model for a major program to multiply waterfowl wetlands for the Sacramento Valley.

Water think-a-thon

Today, on oak-studded chaparral near here, Garcia and the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) are hosting a futuristic, water think-a-thon to consider seriously what else must be done.

At the meeting, the state's top farm, agriculture, and environmental officials will rub shoulders with ordinary farmers and field conservationists. A day of aerial tours and barbecue brainstorming is planned as a precursor to a more detailed convention here in the fall.

"This state bloomed from desert, but there hasn't been a new dam, levee, or aqueduct built in this state since the 1960s," says Kip Solinsky, NCWA's executive director. "Everyone knows there are other ways to increase the yield of water and manage what we already have. But we need to talk and test the concepts."

The six-year crisis here has garnered new support for water-trading markets that can disperse surpluses and deficits. New federal, state, and local legislation has been chipping away at the distribution of 80 percent of water to farms. New ways to pump and store water underground, to reclaim it after use in households and to conserve it, are being considered.

"This is absolutely a turning point for the state," says Sam Yassa, research associate at the Natural Resources Defense Council. Early promises by Gov. Pete Wilson (R) to guarantee protections for the state's environmentally troubled Sacramento Delta – a Grand Central Station for water deliveries north and south – have been delayed.

But federal legislation signed in October sets aside 800,000 acre feet of water for environmental use from fisheries to wildlife refuges *before* agricultural and urban allotments.

"This legislation is providing the incentive for California agriculture to develop other water sources through efficiency and improved management," Mr. Yassa says.

Laws change water distribution

New laws also have provided $1 million for the Federal Bureau of Reclamation to study ways to generate or replenish the 800,000 acre feet for farmers. And a new state bill authorizes the search for new sites for off-stream water storage.

Because 75 percent of the state's water comes from the north, the pressure is being felt here more severely. Water activists recount the painful history of the 100-mile-long Owens Valley, whose streams and farmland were leeched dry in the 1920s to support Los Angeles's growth.

Although several of the attendees at today's meeting favor building new reservoirs to meet new demands, Dave Kennedy, director of the state Department of Water Resources, says California's days of dam building are over. "There are very few dam sites available," he says, "and those are prohibitively expensive and environmentally unacceptable."

Marc Reisner, author of "Cadillac Desert" and one of the West's top water experts, agrees for different reasons. "The EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] will disallow diverting water from streams as endangering salmon and other endangered species. Dams might be a gigantic expense for naught," he says.

Other ideas gaining new currency are so-called "conjunctive use" programs which alternate use of ground and stream water to minimize winter stream diversions that kill salmon in diversion pumps.

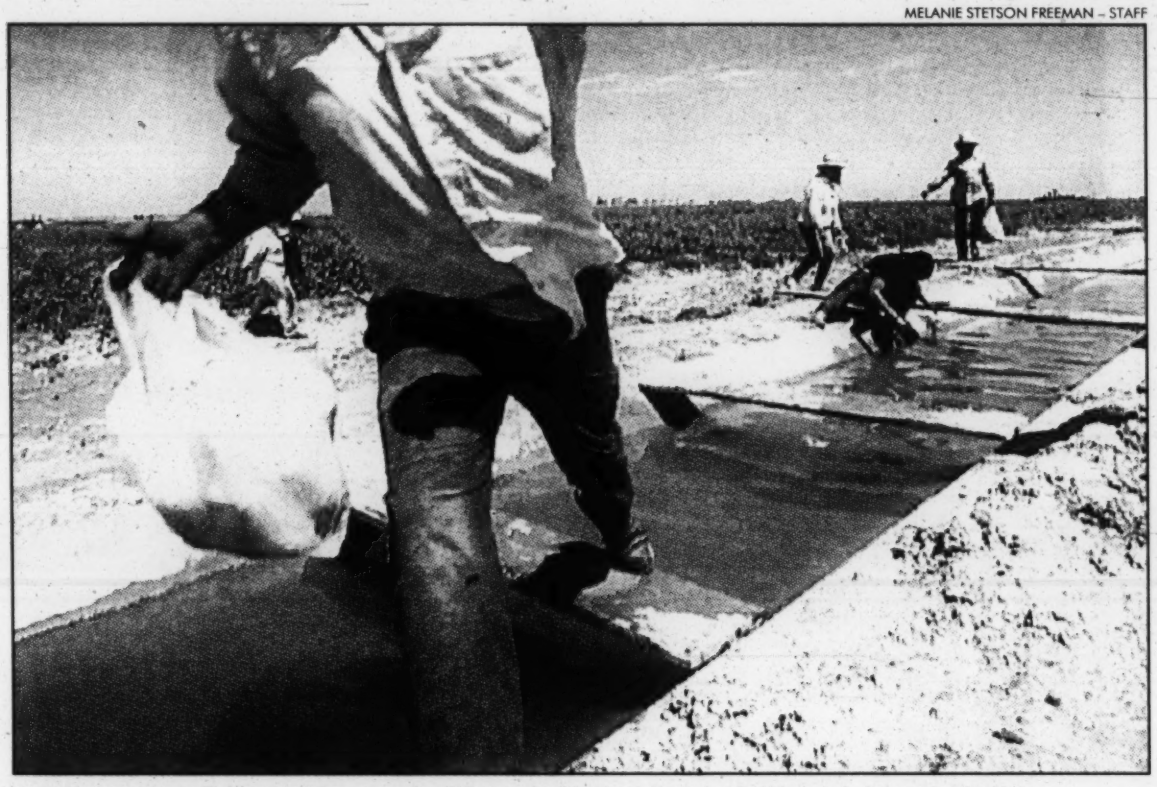
Several private/government partnership ideas are in embryo stages. The Stoney Creek Watershed Project is a grand-scale effort by the US Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service to improve the water-holding capabilities of soil by managing animal herds.

And Allen Garcia's rice fields have been held up as an idea whose time has come – providing 95 percent of a natural habitat at a fraction of the cost of setting aside nature preserves, and without sapping local communities of livelihood or tax income.

"The future of wildlife is going to be on the farms and ranches of the US," says Jack Payne, executive director of Ducks Unlimited, a partner in the rice project.

He adds, "Conservationists, farmers, and urban users are going to have to literally and figuratively meet eye to eye in the fields."

MELANIE STETSON FREEMAN – STAFF



FARMERS AT WORK: *Tomato-pickers wash off in an irrigation ditch in California's Imperial Valley. Agriculture's traditional domination of the state water supply is being reconsidered at a forum today,.*

The government in Port-Au-Prince frustrates the Clinton administration by refusing a deal to bring the elected president back to power

US Signals Stronger Sanctions Against Military Regime in Haiti

By Ben Barber
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON

THE United States plans to impose unilateral sanctions this week on Haiti, whose military rulers recently rejected a plan to return ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power, State Department officials say.

Haiti's de facto government, headed by Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras, frustrated US and United Nations negotiators May 24 by summarily rejecting a deal that would have restored the Rev. Aristide to power while providing large-scale foreign aid and an international police force to ensure a smooth transition.

The US plans to ask a General Assembly meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Managua, Nicaragua, on June 6 to punish the Haitian military regime with tougher sanctions, US officials say.

But a State Department source says, "We will probably have some unilateral sanctions between now and then."

Another State Department official says the sanctions will consist of freezing US assets belonging to high-level supporters of the Haitian regime and revoking their visas. President Clinton threatened last week to take such steps, but Haitian officials – who were apparently buoyed by the US failure to take military action in Bosnia – publicly expressed their skepticism that the US would follow through.

In the meantime, the Haitian police and civilian "attachés" apparently have stepped up threats, arrests, and beatings of Haitians suspected of supporting Aristide, according to an Amnesty International report released May 13.

Not even the presence of more than 100 international human-rights monitors has slowed the repression, Amnesty International reports. The security forces have begun to show contempt for these monitors and to simply arrest people by night and beat them far from the police stations.

Until now, the main international weapon against the military regime in Port-Au-Prince have been a boycott organized by the OAS. But the boycott has been largely ineffective because European countries has not enforced it. If the flow of oil and other goods transported by European ships could be stopped, "that would be serious," an OAS official says.

Talks were to begin in December in the UN Security Council on blocking all oil and weapons imports but they were put on the back-burner after the military regime started to negotiate, says a State Department official.

Sen. Claiborne Pell (D) of Rhode Island, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, remarks bitterly that "we have been far more effective at stopping refugees fleeing Haiti than enforcing the embargo." Senator Pell adds, "It is time to put some action behind our words."

Western officials appear confident that imposing sanctions will do just that by strengthening the hand of negotiators Dante Caputo, representing the UN and OAS, and Lawrence Pezzullo, the special US envoy.

SULLIVAN/AFP

HAITIAN REFUGEE: *While many suffer under the Haitian regime, some experts say that force – not just sanctions by the US – will be necessary to oust the military rulers.*

An OAS official said that the military regime's rejection of last week's deal "showed they were trying to wait the international community out." He added, "The sanctions which will be announced by the US will be the sort to focus their attention on finding a solution quickly."

The State Department official says that the sanctions fall in line with a foreign policy doctrine enunciated last week by Peter Tarnoff, the undersecretary of state for policy. "Tarnoff said the US is looking at new nonviolent ways to deal with problems, using the advice and consent of allies and international organizations," the official says. "If it succeeds, we've trod a new course and found a better way to deal with international crises."

But many experts doubt the policy will work. Since 1957, when François (Papa Doc) Duvalier began a reign of terror in this country, violence alone has ousted Haiti's dictators. In 1986, for example, Duvalier's successor – Jean-Claude (Baby Doc) Duvalier – fled to luxurious exile in France only after protesters had cut all major roads with burning tires, stones, and tree limbs.

Many experts stress that, short of a revolution in the streets, the Port-Au-Prince regime will not budge. Not even a blockade of Haiti – which would be the logical next step – may work, some Haiti-watchers caution.

'Commercial' Year In Space Fails to Fire Business Enthusiasm

By Robert C. Cowen
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

BOSTON

SPACE shuttle Endeavour's mission will symbolize what the National Aeronautics and Space Administration calls "the year of commercial space."

When NASA acting associate administrator Gregory Reck said that "1993 will stand as ... a benchmark for the development of the space frontier," he was talking about commercial use of the weightless environment of orbital flight. He also was talking about studying biological and physical processes, developing new materials, and eventually manufacturing materials under conditions unavailable on Earth.

Endeavour's seven- to eight-day mission involves two facilities designed for such work. Three days after launch – delayed from June 3 until mid-June because of a faulty pump – the crew will recover the European Retrievable Carrier (Eureca) satellite. This unmanned automated laboratory is ready to bring its experiments home to their sponsors after 10 months in orbit. Crew members will also work in the new commercially supplied Spacehab manned laboratory that fits into Endeavour's cargo bay.

Both Eureca and Spacehab are designed to carry a variety of experiments for commercial as well as government sponsors. Both also illustrate the major problem in developing this field: the reluctance of companies to participate. Most of the current experiments have some form of government support.

Eureca provides a long-duration weightless environment that also is free of the jiggles of astronaut activity. The European Space Agency (ESA) touted its commercial potential when the shuttle Atlantis placed it in orbit Aug. 2, 1992. Now ESA is rethinking its entire manned-flight-related program as it awaits the space-station redesign. In the absence of strong commercial interest, it has made no commitment to fly Eureca again. This first Eureca mission cost $428 million, including $213 million for the satellite. A second mission would cost only $150 million.

SPACEHAB is a different type of venture. The laboratory module's 50 experiment lockers double the shuttle's mid-deck locker capacity. The module's volume also expands astronaut working space.

Spacehab Corporation invested more than $100 million of private capital to develop and build two modules. But it needs government help to have a viable operation. NASA has leased 200 of the 300 locker spaces available on Spacehab's first six flights.

However, Spacehab has few customers for the other 100 lockers. This flight and the second Spacehab mission in November are secure. And NASA may consider leasing more lockers for the third flight.

Commercial companies have not ignored Spacehab entirely. A number of experiments in NASA-leased lockers have commercial sponsors. Often a company works with one of the 17 Centers for Commercial Development of Space (CCDS) that NASA sponsors at universities and other research institutions.

Comet (Commercial Experiment Transporter) – another NASA-encouraged venture – also has cost problems. This is a small satellite carrying 11 experiments. Launched by a commercial rocket, it orbits for 30 days, then releases a capsule that brings seven of the experiments back to Earth. It's a joint venture of the NASA-supported CCDS at the University of Tennessee at Tullahoma, Westinghouse Corporation in Baltimore, Space Industries International in Houston, and EER Systems in Vienna, Va., which will supply the Conestoga launch rockets. The Tennessee CCDS commissioned the first 430-pound payload.

After several delays in readying the Conestoga rocket, the first Comet flight is likely in July or August. The project, however, is already some $5.5 million over budget. NASA's Reck has warned that more NASA support may be needed.

In its 1994 budget request, NASA asks for $25 million for Comet – up from $23 million last year. It wants $66 million for Spacehab – an increase of $17 million – although Spacehab funding would drop to $22 million for fiscal 1995.

SOUTH KOREA from page 1

"He's done a lot very quickly about dirty politics and business in Korea," says Kim Yu Nam, a political science professor at Dankook University in Seoul. "But many fear that he could easily become a populist dictator."

For now, however, Kim's main problem is rising criticism that he may not have gone far enough in punishing abuses of the past. Student protests over the past three weeks have focused on his decision not to prosecute his two predecessors, former presidents Roh Tae Woo and Chun Doo Hwan.

As a former opposition leader, Kim was himself a victim of military rule. He was once under house arrest for three years. His image was slightly tarnished in 1991 when he made a dramatic jump over to the ruling party of then-President Roh, a former general, as the country was shedding its authoritarian ways for democracy. It was an obvious attempt to win the presidency.

In a plea for reconciliation, Kim asked Koreans to let history judge the deeds of Roh and Chun. "It takes great courage to forgive," Kim said in a nationwide television address. "Only by so doing can we end the 13-year nightmare and heal the trauma."

In 1979, Chun, then an Army major general, led a coup against military leaders with the help of Roh. And in 1980 his regime suppressed an uprising in the city of Kwangju that left about 200 people dead. By 1987, however, student protests had forced the regime toward democracy.

These events and Kim's apparent gratitude to Roh has created a dilemma for him. In a speech, he went only so far as to describe the 1979 coup as "a kind of a military coup staged by officers against their superiors." To prosecute Roh and Chun, who still hold some power, might trigger a political crisis, Kim's aides say. "I have had many sleepless nights over this issue," Kim said in a speech. He did order a memorial in Kwangju and compensation for the victims. But that was not enough for some, and lawsuits have been filed to uncover the details of the events.

The pace and scope of Kim's 'moralism' campaign has raised the eyebrows of critics, who warn he may be a despot in the making.

Kim partly incited the criticism when he sacked four generals, including the joint chief of staff, for participating in the 1979 coup. At first the four were to be prosecuted, but Kim changed his mind, because Chun and Roh are presumed to have given orders to the generals.

Other officers involved in the coup may also be let go soon. Such actions have sent a signal to the military to stay out of politics.

At the same time, 15 senior Navy and Air Force officers were arrested in a scandal involving bribes for promotions.

Besides the military shakeup, Kim has put a broom to old-style politicians. Soon after taking office, he disclosed his private assets ($2.3 million) and asked others to follow. More than 300 government officials and legislators followed suit.

Many had accumulated wealth through property speculation, and some were accused of accepting illegal campaign money. Three Cabinet ministers and three legislators, including the house speaker, Park Jun Kyu, have resigned under close scrutiny. "There should be no sanctuary from the anti-corruption campaign," Kim said.

In addition, the National Assembly passed an ethics law that requires about 7,000 senior officials to declare their personal assets in August. Another 3,000 lower-ranking officials must register their assets with authorities but need not make them public.

Kim's campaign has unearthed two scandals involving alleged bribery of public officials.

In one, the vice-minister of justice resigned along with two other officials just before they were to be questioned about alleged involvement in a slot-machine racket. And Park Chul Un, a relative of Roh and a former party rival to Kim, was arrested in the same scandal. The other scandal involves alleged bribes by Donghwa Bank to officials under Roh's regime.

Kim says his anticorruption campaign will last to the end of his five-year term. But he also plans to rewrite the rules that help breed corruption, such as campaign financing, and try to improve the people's social behavior to create what he calls a "New Korea."

AID from page 1

billion Russian aid package. The House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations approved the package last week, but committee chairman David Obey (D) of Wisconsin says it will be "a tough sell" to win broader legislative support, especially from the Senate counterpart committee.

Sen. Richard Lugar (R) of Indiana, who has consistently called for more US engagement in Russia, is skeptical about the president's ability to win lawmakers' approval. Mr. Lugar says he cautioned the president not to introduce assistance with a White House economic plan that would run into opposition on its own. But that is precisely what happened, says the frustrated senator.

Questioning reforms

In addition to their concerns that Congress cannot afford to send money abroad when Americans face budget cuts and tax hikes, many US legislators remain unconvinced that Russian reforms are serious, and doubt the accountability of the aid recipients. "The Central Bank still rumbles on to its own [anti-reform] tune," printing money and doling it out to failing state-owned enterprises, Lugar says.

Anxious to unlock $3 billion in International Monetary Fund loans and secure more money from the US and other donors, Russian Central Bank chief Viktor Gerashchenko recently pledged to impose tight restrictions on government credits to indebted or insolvent state enterprises.

In Washington last week, Boris Nemtsov, the strongly reformist young governor of Russia's Nizhni Novgorod province, lamented that much of the aid sent to Moscow "gets lost." He lobbied lawmakers to send money and technical help directly to localities. "I would write where every single dollar went," he says.

If support will be tough to muster among US legislators, the challenge may prove more difficult in Europe, where economies are stagnant and near-term recovery prospects are poor.

Clinton administration officials constantly invoke the theme of broader burden-sharing among the world's wealthiest nations. Stepping up coordinated efforts to aid Russia will top the agenda during the meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations – the US, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan – scheduled for early July.

"We in Brussels [at the European Community headquarters] are under enormous pressure from Moscow, Kiev, and Minsk to help put their economies back on track, but we're in a budgetary bind ourselves," says James Elles, a member of the European Parliament's foreign affairs and budget committees.

The new republics need to broker trade agreements and other economic cooperative efforts among themselves, Mr. Elles says. "We must do what we can to foster regionalism and build a union on the other side of the continent, because we can't do it all."

European reluctance

The EC allocated roughly $500 million a year for 1992 and 1993 to spend on technical assistance to Russia and other ex-Soviet republics. Elles says his committees have spent the last week examining "the real need to keep a check on where the money is going."

Germany, Russia's largest donor, is not eager to offer more than trade credits and technical help. "In a few weeks [the G-7] will finalize the package for the Russians," says Birgit Breuel, director of the German government's Treuhandanstalt, which by 1994 will have closed down or sold off most eastern German state enterprises.

Ms. Breuel, who is an adviser to Russia, says "a prudent and uncomplicated legal system and a well-organized and trustworthy financial system" are essential to successfully privatize and develop a free market. But moves toward these developments have been sluggish, at best. Observers say that progress is needed before anybody – even the US – champions Russian reforms.

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GRADUATION from page 1

The Texas ruling, which was made last November, states that a student may legally deliver an invocation if the graduating class votes in favor of it. This case paved the way for a student-sponsored invocation at Clear Lake High School's graduation ceremony in Houston last Saturday.

In Frankfort, Ind., five students sued their school district after officials banned prayers at graduation. The parties settled with an agreement that officials would not endorse prayer at the ceremony but would not prohibit religious expression either.

Jason Nauman, student council president at Spotswood High School in Penn Laird, Va., intends to include a prayer and Bible verse in his graduation address on June 12. When school officials told him this would not be allowed, he decided to sue with help from ACLJ.

ON the other side of the issue, the American Civil Liberties Union put out a letter arguing that the Supreme Court's ruling prohibits prayer in public-school ceremonies, whether student-led or not. The ACLU has warned that it may seek injunctions against school systems that try to include invocations and benedictions in graduation ceremonies.

Student-school confrontations are creating sparks over the graduation prayer issue in at least a half-dozen states. For example:

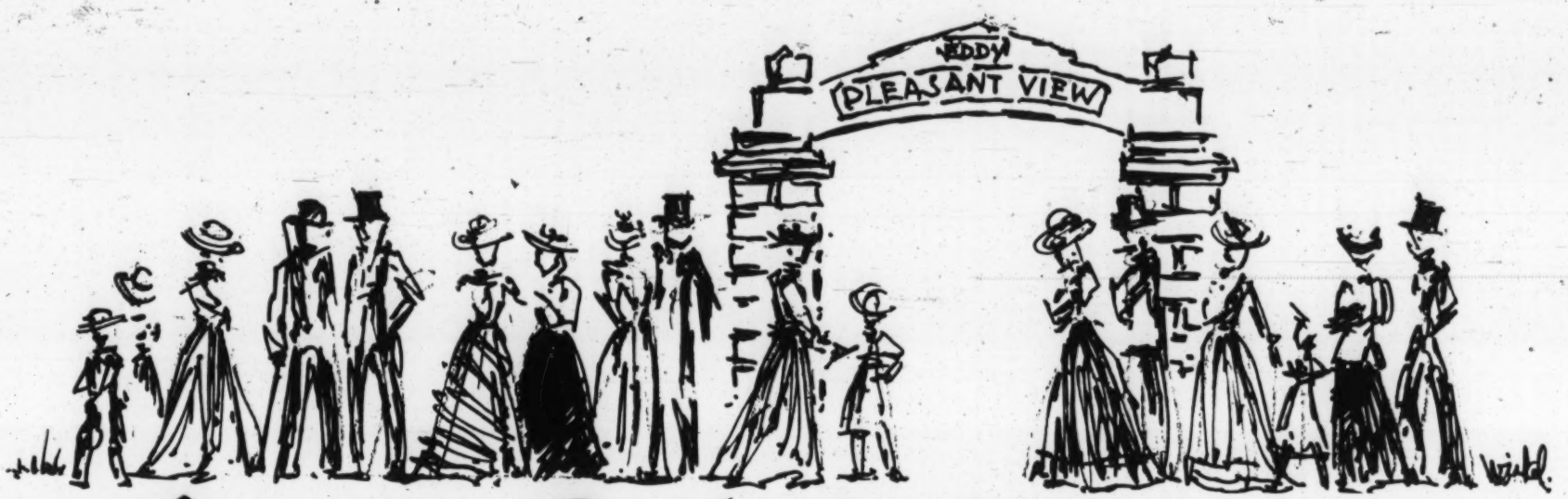
■ More than 2,000 students in Virginia participated in a school walkout several weeks ago protesting school administrators who plan to abide by the Supreme Court ruling against graduation prayers. Many high school students in Virginia have been wearing white ribbons and staging balloon launches to call attention to the issue. Petitions are being signed and students are picketing county courthouses.

■ School administrators in Sheldon, Iowa, voted two months ago to allow the senior class to decide whether prayer should be part of their graduation.

■ The Arkansas legislature amended a 1985 equal-access law to allow "student-planned graduate ceremonies and student-planned pre-game activities at sports events," even if they are religious.

■ In Tennessee, the legislature passed a law stating that "it is lawful for any teacher in any of the schools of the state ... to permit voluntary participation by students or others in prayer."

■ On May 21, a federal judge in Boise, Idaho, ruled that allowing students to vote on whether to include prayer in graduation ceremonies was constitutional. "The Supreme Court has had two recent opportunities to ban all prayer at graduation ceremonies but has declined to do so," the judge wrote.



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TUES 8TH	10:00 - 4:15	NO VAN
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Regular hours resume June 10:Tues–Sat 10–4:15; Sun 1–4:15; closed Mondays
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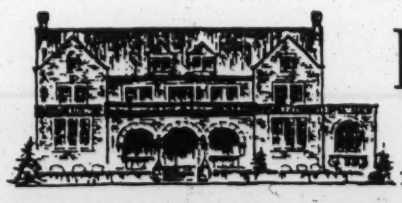

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BELGRADE RIOTS LEAD TO ARREST OF OPPOSITION LEADER

BELGRADE

■ Serbia's main opposition chief was arrested yesterday after playing a leading role in a night of street clashes in Belgrade in which a policeman was killed and three others wounded.

Police arrested Vuk Draskovic, his wife, and other officials of the Serbian Renewal Movement after a crowd of 4,000 tried to storm the parliament building late Tuesday.

They were protesting the ousting of federal president Dobrica Cosic and the beating of an opposition deputy by a hard-line nationalist in parliament. Mr. Cosic's ouster was engineered by the Serbian Radical Party led by ultranationalist Vojislav Seselj.

The protest marked a rare outburst of public opposition to the Serbian government of President Slobodan Milosevic, who has exercised a strong hold over Yugoslav political life.

Stone-throwing crowds clashed with riot police when they charged the parliament steps. Armored cars and police patrolled streets around the parliament and along the major Revolution Boulevard during the night, but by dawn life had returned to normal.

Police said in a statement 121 people, including Mr. Draskovic, were being held, and legal charges were being brought against them.

Meanwhile in Bosnia-Herzegovina, United Nations Protection Force Commander Barry Frewer said the UN was investigating the firing of two shells that exploded amid soccer players in Sarajevo on Tuesday, killing at least 11.

The UN suspended relief flights to the Bosnian Serb-besieged capital of Sarajevo yesterday, after a United States plane was hit by gunfire at the airport, a UN spokesman said.

Muslim-controlled radio said Serb troops backed up by tanks were also assaulting the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde from all directions, and thousands of civilians are fleeing the fighting.

– Reuters

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INTERNATIONAL

Four years after the crackdown on students, Beijing's centers of Communist indocrination are pursuing profit to make ends meet

China Universities Learn Capitalism

By Sheila Tefft
Staff writer of the Christian Science Monitor

BEIJING

LIFE at the Beijing University Biology Department hasn't been the same since Chen Zhangliang took charge last summer.

The brash, young scientist with an American doctorate had already raised eyebrows when he achieved full professor, a title of particular eminence in China, at the ripe age of 28.

But three years later, when Mr. Chen strode over faculty outcry to become department chairman, he launched a shake-up that has rattled the staid, ill-paid academics and smug Communist bureaucrats burdening this struggling university.

BEIJING CAMPUSES
4 YEARS AFTER TIANANMEN

In a free-wheeling interview at his university office, laden with the American jargon picked up during his graduate studies at Washington University in St. Louis, the lanky geneticist rarely sat still.

Dressed in a running suit and jogging shoes, Chen often bounded out of his chair to deal with frequent interruptions from colleagues, offer his five-page résumé to visitors, or restage last July's triumph when he confronted an audience of hostile biologists and made his pitch.

"There was a huge crowd and all was quiet," Chen said in a near whisper. "I stood up and said, 'Listen, you guys. I want to reform this department. And if at the end of one year, I can't make it, I'm out.... I need 80 percent of your support because I want to make our department into a company.... I want to change your salaries now. Anyone who works hard can make money.' "

Thus, with official blessing and capital, Beida Weimin Bioengineering Co. came to life and showed, to the relief of cash-strapped administrators, the delight of government economic reformers, and the horror of intellectual purists, that money can change a university.

Earning $300,000 in its first three months by selling biology department research to pharmaceutical companies, the company has become a cause célèbre at Beida, as Chinese call the university, and made Chen the boy wonder of academic capitalism.

"We need reform, and to have reform, we need money," says the scientist who conceived his company while watching biotechnology stocks soar on Wall Street.

Such companies have become the watchword for universities struggling to make ends meet in an era of shrinking government grants and subsidies.

Beida has started nine companies, while about two dozen others are run by individual departments. Last March, the university pulled down a wall on the southern end of campus for a shopping center and placed a Communist Party official in charge of real estate and development.

University administrators openly seek foreign investors for new ventures and are cutting deals with Chinese enterprises and overseas Chinese and are pushing companies to recruit lucrative foreign students.

In the second half of 1992, departments at the University of Politics and Law set up 10 law firms and other companies, which are projected to net about $90,000 by the end of 1993. The funds are mainly earmarked to increase faculty salaries.

Chen Guangzhong, university president and a lawyer, bemoans the fact that he is turning into a fund-raiser like US counterparts, although China's troubled state enterprises are hardly hefty corporate donors.

"Personally, I'm not in favor of a university spending a lot of time in raising its own revenues," he says, "but I have no choice. I spend half my time doing this."

Turning lofty Chinese intellectuals into businessmen, though, is an uphill task. Despite official enthusiasm for campus business, many companies exist in name only. While Qinghua, China's preeminent science university, and science-related departments on other Beijing campuses are selling technological research, departments of humanities and social sciences limp along with few options other than to sell snacks or do tutoring.

JAMES L. TYSON/FILE

STUDENT THRONG, 1989: *A more politicized student body marched toward Tiananmen Square four years ago. Today China's most promising youth are shunning universities for an education on the fledgling free market.*

"We were told last year that all departments had to set up companies," says a music professor at Beijing Normal University, where departments are required to pay two-thirds of their office expenses. "But many are just shells and not making any money."

Under the business push, many professors also are seeking second jobs or consulting work to augment meager salaries. The trend dismays many Chinese, who hold intellectuals in high esteem and were appalled to read reports last fall of a college teacher selling meat pies on the street.

The problem of pitiful salaries has become so acute that universities face the worrying exodus of bright young professors lured from academics by the fast bucks of China's emerging marketplace.

"This has already become a threat to the teaching quality," admits Mr. Chen, president of the University of Politics and Law.

At Beida, Chen, the biology chairman, bought out adverse professors, who earned an average $25 a month, by promising a $100 bonus a year after the company started and paying a $30 bonus when the company was officially launched. He also offered faculty an unheard of 66-cent premium per hour of teaching, triggering a scramble for class time.

The scientist then tackled streamlining of the communist bureaucracy in the department, which had 100 professors but 250 other workers. "I promised [workers] 100 yuan [about $10] per person as a bonus if they would stay home and sleep and keep their mouths shut." Fifty people took the offer.

Today, Chen's time is dominated by business deals rather than biology. A tireless self-promoter whom the Chinese government lured back from the US with promises of his own laboratory, he is pursuing joint ventures in Hong Kong and Japan and wants to publicly list his company.

As a member of China's rubber-stamp parliament, he is lobbying the government for land for a "city" of biotechnology enterprises and tax incentives for new enterprises. "The generation under 35 is coming up very strongly," he says, urging that Chinese students in the US return home. "We are in a position where in the future we can make this country move."

Guatemalans Cheer Step To Reinstate Democracy

But after Serrano's ouster, public awaits naming of interim president

By David Clark Scott
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

MEXICO CITY

AFTER a one-week detour down the path of dictatorship, Guatemala appears to be retracing its steps toward democratic rule.

The Guatemalan Congress met in a special session yesterday to formally accept the resignations of President Jorge Serrano Elías and his vice president. An interim president is expected to be appointed before the week's end.

President Serrano's power grab ended on Tuesday as abruptly as it began.

On May 25, Serrano unilaterally dissolved the Guatemalan legislature and judiciary while revoking a range of constitutional rights. He justified the emergency rule as necessary to rid the country of corruption and narcotrafficking. He promised a quick return to democratic constitutional government.

But by Monday, May 31, it was becoming clear that Guatemalan society had little patience for Serrano's methods. Media censorship was either lifting or being blatantly ignored. Two Cabinet members resigned. Public protests – in direct defiance of a ban on assembly – were growing. The Army took no action. Societal fear was ebbing, and international pressure was mounting.

On Tuesday, the last sector of Guatemalan political power structure still supporting Serrano – the military – decided to oust him.

"Responding to the clamor of the people, we hereby restore constitutional rule to Guatemala," Defense Minister Gen. José Domingo García Samayoa said.

Confusion reigned most of Tuesday. It was unclear whether a counter coup by the military was underway, or a return to democracy. A marathon bargaining session was held in the defense minister's office, attended by members of the Constitutional Court, opposition parties, media, and business leaders.

The 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Rigoberta Menchú, reportedly walked out of the meeting saying: "We are not going to back a military coup d'état with a civilian façade."

But Guatemala's leading business organization said the military is concerned about its image and agreed to reinstall Congress as the ruling body within five days. "We view these events as very positive. It's a legal pathway out of our problems," says Luis Figueroa, a spokesman for the Coordinator of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations.

Guatemalan political scientist Armando de la Torre puts it this way: "Legally, the constitutional court is in charge. Effectively, and we hope temporarily, the military controls the country."

At press time, the leading candidate for interim president is Arturo Herbruger, an elder statesman and respected head of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. Sources close to Mr. Herbruger say he is reluctant to serve out the rest of Serrano's term, which ends in January 1996. Herbruger may push for congressional and presidential elections in November, with the new officials taking office in January 1994. But current members of Congress, who would stay in office for another two years, aren't as enthusiastic about having early elections.

Other candidates in contention for interim president are constitutional court justice Jorge García Laguardia and former foreign minister Fernando Andrade.

Once it is decided who will be Guatemala's next president, Congress and the Supreme Court will likely begin house cleaning. No one argues with Serrano's claim that an unacceptable percentage of the judges and politicians are corrupt. But how the courts and congress will purge themselves is unclear. "We're entering into unprecedented territory," says Mr. De la Torre.

Serrano himself could be subject to prosecution for violating the constitution if he remains in Guatemala. He is expected to seek asylum in another country.

A conservative politician, not-so-prosperous property developer, and evangelical Christian, Serrano won the presidency as a dark-horse candidate. He was the second successive civilian president in Guatemala in more than three decades. Before becoming president, Serrano served on the National Reconciliation Commission, a body created to lay the groundwork for an end to Guatemala's 32-year civil war. Upon taking office, Serrano actively pursued peace talks with the leftist insurgents. But over the last year the talks became stalled on human-rights issues.

Serrano inherited an economic mess. Inflation was at a historical peak of 63 percent. The government was bankrupt. Serrano brought inflation under control, attracted foreign investment, and returned the government to sound fiscal footing. But in adopting the austere, free-market oriented privatization reforms sweeping Latin America, Serrano's popularity ebbed. Strikes and riots marred the final days of his legitimate rule.

Serrano's downfall, say local political analysts, was his inability to compromise. Close associates describe him as unable to accept criticism and not inclined to listen to even his closest advisers. When some Congressional members threatened to investigate him for misuse of public funds, Serrano may have feared that he faced removal from office à la Venezuela's president Carlos Andrés Pérez. Instead, he opted for the tactics of Peru's Alberto Fujimori.

EZEQUIEL BECERRA/REUTERS

GUATEMALA CITY: *A resident sets off firecrackers in front of the National Palace after the military removed President Jorge Serrano Elías from office one week after he suspended democracy.*

AFTERMATH OF ARSON

Turks Press Germany For Citizen Rights, Police Protection

By Francine Kiefer
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

BONN

SINCE the arson attack that killed five Turks in the west German town of Solingen last weekend, "I get shivers up and down my spine," says Jasemin Karakasoglu.

"I live in an apartment house with other foreigners" that is easily recognizable as such to anyone who might observe the house, the Turkish woman explains anxiously. "I live on the top floor..." she trails off, an obvious reference to the Solingen blaze that had been set in the staircase, blocking the escape route.

The Solingen murders, thought by officials to have a right extremist motivation, have awakened fear, rage, and despair in the 1.7 million Turks in Germany, by far the country's largest minority. Five hate crimes occur per day in Germany.

Yesterday, the federal prosecutor's office announced that the arson may have been committed solely by a 16-year-old, now in police custody. On June 1, the office sent out descriptions of four suspected accomplices, but later withdrew them after discovering that the youth had falsely implicated those people.

Five days after the deaths, Turks were still holding a vigil outside the charred house, demonstrating throughout Germany, and demanding more police protection. "We thought that after Mölln [the German town where three Turks died last November in a neo-Nazi firebombing], the extremist murders would stop. But nothing has changed," says Ms. Karakasoglu, who works at the Center for Turkish Studies in Essen.

Turkish extremist groups and young German anarchists have also rioted in Solingen, rampaging through the downtown area and smashing windows in stores, banks, and restaurants. In a joint statement issued June 1, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and interim leader of the opposition Social Democrats, Johannes Rau, warned against vigilante justice. "We must prevent injustice causing more injustice," they said.

The police reported that Solingen, after two nights of rioting, saw only minor unrest Tuesday night. But law enforcement officials are still wary of the 35,000 Turks in Germany who belong to extremist groups and who could be out for revenge.

Both the Mölln and Solingen firebombings have left Turks feeling vulnerable. They are demanding more protection, such as police being assigned to regular beats in Turkish areas.

"You can't protect every Turk in Germany," admits Halit Celikbudak, a journalist at Hurriyet International, the largest Turkish newspaper in Germany. The Germans can, however, hand out harsher sentences to convicted neo-Nazis and extremist skinheads, he says, and treat the Turkish murders as genocide, which carries an automatic sentence of life imprisonment.

The Solingen case has also reignited the debate of Germany's immigration and naturalization policy. For the most part, German citizenship is granted only to people of German ancestry.

But considering that Turks have lived in Germany for 30-plus years, with new generations being born and raised here, Turks are demanding dual citizenship (Turkish and German) and the right to vote in local elections. Their demands are backed by some key German politicians and the Turkish government.

Last week, before the Solingen incident, Chancellor Kohl suggested that Turks and other foreigners born in Germany be granted dual citizenship for a period of five years, after which they must choose one or the other. Turks say that suggestion would be insufficient.

Kohl is also under fire for not attending the funeral service of the Solingen victims planned for today in a Cologne mosque. Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters, and President Richard von Weizsäcker will be present.

Meanwhile, an extraordinary meeting of the Bundestag's interior committee has been called for tomorrow to take up the issues surrounding Solingen. Lawmakers are also pushing to pass legislation awarding compensation to foreign victims of hate crimes in Germany before the parliament recesses for its summer break.

S. Africa High Court Upholds Conviction Of Winnie Mandela

By John Battersby
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's highest court yesterday confirmed Winnie Mandela's 1991 conviction on four counts of kidnapping, but the estranged wife of Nelson Mandela will not go to jail.

The long-awaited decision effectively blocks Mrs. Mandela's attempts to make an early political comeback, and also prevents her from emerging as a political martyr after serving several years in jail. As a convicted felon, Mrs. Mandela will almost certainly be prevented from holding office in the African National Congress's decisionmaking bodies or playing a significant role in a future ANC government.

"I think this is probably the most satisfactory outcome of what was a no-win situation for the ANC," says an ANC official on condition of anonymity. "If she had been sent to jail, it would have been a major headache in the future. And if her name had been totally cleared, she would almost certainly have made a rapid come-back within the organization."

Mrs. Mandela was sentenced to six years in jail for her role in the 1989 kidnapping and assault of four black youths in Soweto. She appealed. Following the April 6, 1992 publication of a Monitor investigation into the events in 1989, the South African police opened a new probe into allegations linking Mrs. Mandela to the death of a prominent Soweto physician, Abu-Baker Asvat, who examined the boys after they were beaten by their captors.

Nothing has come of the police investigation, but renewed allegations took their toll. Mrs. Mandela was stripped last April of her seats in the ANC executive and ANC Women's League executive, and of her position as head of the ANC social welfare department. And Mr. Mandela publicly separated from his wife.

Mrs. Mandela also faced allegations that she misappropriated funds from the ANC's social welfare department.

She has nonetheless continued in her role as a social worker and political activist and has built substantial support in shanty settlements like Phola Park, south of Johannesburg.

She also continues to enjoy support among militant elements of the ANC Youth League. Since the assassination of her friend and colleague, South African Communist Party leader Chris Hani, Mrs. Mandela has called on angry youth leaders to seize control of the ANC from moderate leaders. The call was seen as a clear political attack on her estranged husband.

But last week Mrs. Mandela made a surprise call for black youth involved in the current education strikes to return to school and complete their schooling.

In a 192-page judgment, Chief Justice M. M. Corbett set aside her conviction on four counts of being an accessory after the fact of assault and her sentence of one year on the assault convictions. Judge Corbett, sitting with four judges who concurred, changed Mrs. Mandela's five-year jail sentence for the kidnapping convictions to a fine of $5,000 or one year in jail and a further two-year jail sentence suspended for five years.

Xoliswa Falati, the main co-defendant at Mrs. Mandela's trial, will serve an effective two years in jail instead of her original six-year sentence. Two years were suspended.

Mrs. Mandela was ordered to pay $1,650 to each of the surviving youths who were kidnapped and later beaten by her bodyguards. The youngest of the four, Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, was beaten to death. Jerry Richardson, the head of the controversial United Mandela Football Club, is serving a 19-year jail sentence for Seipei's murder.

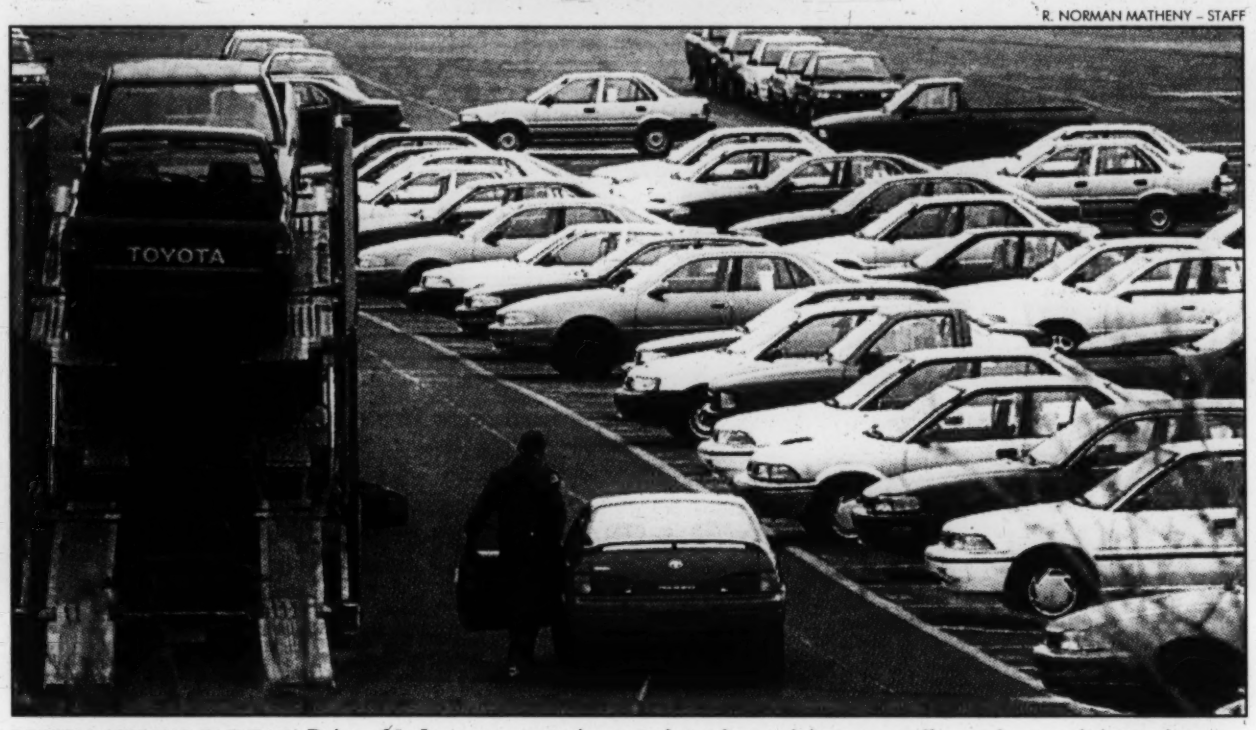
The case returned to the spotlight in March 1992 when Mrs. Mandela evicted Mrs. Falati from one of the Mandela homes at gunpoint in the middle of the night. Falati had threatened to reveal damaging information about Mrs. Mandela's role in the kidnapping of the youths and the Seipei death.

Judge Corbett found that both Mrs. Mandela and Falati were "evasive, untruthful, and contradictory" during the trial, and were capable of "dishonest improvization."

Mrs. Mandela was unavailable for comment. An aide said she was writing a university examination and could not be disturbed.

ECONOMY

R. NORMAN MATHENY – STAFF



TOYOTAS ARRIVING IN THE US: *Prices for Japanese auto imports have been rising generally, and a soaring yen imposes further pressure for increases. Japanese companies in the past have resisted such increases.*

High Yen Pinches Japanese Firms And Starts to Cost US Customers

By Ron Scherer
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

NEW YORK

THE rising yen is unpleasant news for importers of Japanese autos, copiers, cameras, electronics, and other goods.

Since January, the yen has appreciated by about 17 percent against the dollar. On Tuesday the yen rose to its highest level since World War II as currency speculators figured the Clinton administration wanted a strong yen to diminish the massive trade deficit between the two countries.

When the yen is strong, Japanese imports in the United States are more expensive and US exports to Japan are cheaper. At least that is the theory. However, "the simple theory has to be adjusted a bit," says Bill Sterling, manager of international economics at Merrill Lynch & Co. In practice, Japanese companies are reluctant to lose market share and instead squeeze their profit margins. "But, there's no doubt the thrust of things – the cost of Japanese goods is heading up," Mr. Sterling says.

This is the case for automobiles. Since the end of the last model year (October 1992), Japanese manufacturers have raised their prices about 3 percent. The Honda Accord costs 5.8 percent more, the Mazda 626 is up 7.4 percent, Nissans are up from 1 to 2.5 percent, and Toyotas up from 1 to 3 percent. Although Japanese carmakers have raised prices 1 to 2 percent in 1993, increases have not fully reflected the yen's jump in value.

"The Japanese will lose a lot of market share if they try to pass the yen appreciation through," says Susan Jacobs, president of Jacobs Automotive in Little Falls, N.J. She estimates their market share could tumble as much as 4 to 5 percent if they raise prices to reflect the currency change.

In fact, price increases may have already cost customers. According to Ford Motor Company estimates, Honda's April market share fell to 7.5 percent from 8.8 percent last April, Toyota has slipped to 8.7 percent compared with 9.5 percent, and Mazda has slid from 3.5 to 2.9 percent. Bucking the trend, Nissan's share is up from 4.6 to 5.3 percent. Together, Japanese cars have lost 2.4 percent of the US market.

Joel Pitcoff, research and analysis manager for Ford, says the shift represents the cumulative effect of price changes over five or six years. "So many people were comparing import products and relying on their impression that they were price competitive with and equal to domestic products," he says. Once people actually looked, they found Japanese cars cost $1,500 to $2,000 more.

For example, a Ford LX 4-door with automatic transmission and air conditioning has a sticker price of $11,786. A comparably equipped Toyota Corolla Deluxe costs $14,773. A Honda Civic Deluxe runs $13,941.

A key test for Japanese manufacturers will come this fall when they introduce 1994 models. "I've heard the price hikes will be greater in the fall," says Jacobs.

This would mark a real change for the Japanese who have usually swallowed currency changes in order to maintain market share. "You must look at the sustainability of the exchange rates to decide if they are artificial," explains Daniel Seto, an economist at Nikko Securities Company International Inc. Mr. Seto says he expects most Japanese companies will be hesitant to raise prices since they do not have much marketing flexibility due to the weak Japanese economy. This appears to be the case in consumer electronics.

At the summer trade show of the Electronic Industries Association, most Japanese televisions, cassette recorders, and camcorders appear to be competitively priced. "We have not heard or seen any price increases," says spokeswoman Cynthia Upsun.

HOWEVER, the Japanese may be forced to raise prices for a number of reasons. US companies may press dumping lawsuits if they feel Japanese are selling products in the US "at an unfair value." The Japanese companies also might report losses once they bring lower-value dollars home. "Every time the yen goes up in value, our analysts slash their profit forecasts," Sterling says.

If the Japanese do lift prices, economists will be watching to see if US companies raise their own. "Some of the disappointing inflation news for the first four months may be reflecting some of the pricing behavior of US firms as a result of the falling dollar versus the yen," Sterling speculates. "We may be creating a price umbrella and future inflation headaches."

For Swedes, Jobless Rate Is High

But the country leads the way in Europe in finding ways to keep the unemployed active

By Howard LaFranchi
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

STOCKHOLM

UNTIL recently, Jorgen Tonnes worked at an industrial bakery here, but it will be a while before his hands are white with flour again. Like thousands of other Europeans each month, Mr. Tonnes finds himself joining Europe's nearly 20 million unemployed.

Trained in computer sciences, Tonnes represents an especially worrying segment of those jobless: young men and women who had expected in early adulthood to be setting the first building blocks of a career. But now Tonnes is even out of the make-do job he had taken until something came along in his field.

With few prospects on the horizon, Tonnes could end up on the dole. "It used to be that anybody who really tried could find a job, but in these times it's not so true," he says. "At less than a year I wasn't even in the baking enterprise long enough to claim full [unemployment] benefits, so if I can't get by, I might have to go on welfare."

That is a discouraging prospect for Tonnes. But one factor working in his favor is that as a Swede, he lives in a country where the emphasis is placed on keeping as many jobless as possible active in their unemployment.

It is an idea that has been pushed for years in Sweden, but has recently gained more attention: With the ranks of the long-term unemployed growing, Europeans must find ways to keep the unemployed motivated and in the job market, and to develop their skills or keep current those they already have.

The European Community, to which Sweden has applied for membership, released a preliminary report last week on a wide-ranging program for creating jobs in a slow-growth period. The program places particular emphasis on "active" unemployment measures such as training. The EC spends only about one-third of all unemployment benefits on "active" measures, while Sweden spends about two-thirds.

"The goal of the Swedish government has long been to avoid sedentary unemployment," says Mats Wadman, assistant undersecretary for employment at the Ministry of Labor. "Not one of our political parties opposes that strategy."

"The problem for us now is that with unemployment rising so fast, the goal becomes more difficult to reach," he adds.

Sweden's official unemployment rate is about 7.5 percent – low compared with many European countries, but shockingly high for Swedes when compared with the average 2 percent unemployment over the second half of the 1980s.

With the 200,000 Swedes in various training programs added to that figure, total unemployment rises to about 12 percent, similar to the rate in Denmark, Britain, and France.

The highly developed training programs have been considered a success in the past, but as the recession has deepened, post-training placement rates have tumbled. Throughout the 1980s, 60 to 70 percent of those who had undergone retraining found new jobs within six months. By 1991, that number had fallen to 50 percent. Last year it plummeted to 28 percent.

"The government's policy now is to use the recession to retrain and increase the skills level of the work force," says Asa Pettersson, head of labor market policy at Sweden's labor ministry. "The recession is also pushing us to look into some new ways of helping the idly unemployed."

Under one plan, the government pays up to 60 percent of a new employee's salary for the first six months. Under another plan, designed to increase youths' skills, the government pays 100 percent of a salary for up to a year for a worker under 26 years old.

"The idea in the youth program is not so much, as in the first one, to see the job prolonged," Ms. Pettersson says, "but to help young people develop a solid skill and experience so they are then in a better position to find long-term employment."

Another program allows an unemployed person to collect from the government up to six months of his old wages to start up a new company. This plan has actually existed for a decade, but has "exploded" in the past two years, Pettersson says, as a more "entrepreneurial" and better-educated generation has been hit by the recession.

No one touts the "active unemployment" schemes as a cure for unemployment, of course. Many economists and officials in Sweden's conservative government say more emphasis must be put on loosening up the country's highly regulated economy so that companies will create jobs without government enticement.

"The greatest need in our labor policy is more flexibility," says Olof Ehrenkrona, director of planning in Prime Minister Carl Bildt's office.

"Companies are discouraged from hiring in an uncertain economic period because with all the costs involved, any new hires can end up a very expensive mistake if anticipated growth doesn't materialize," he says. "And if we have so many young people unemployed, it's largely due to stiff regulations. The company that has to reduce staff has to drop the young first – even though they may be the most desirable and productive employees."

Indeed, Europeans are exploring ways to make new hires less costly for companies. But until economic growth rebounds, a certain emphasis will be placed on keeping the unemployed busy.

Denmark, which currently spends more than 6 percent of GNP on unemployment benefits – a record among Western countries – is paying particular attention to the issue.

Reeling under an unemployment program developed in the 1970's, when jobless rates were very low, Denmark pays 90 percent of a lost salary (capped at about $22,500) – with renewal provisions making collection of that amount possible for up to nine years.

"With those benefits, there is no incentive to look for work, especially for the low-skilled and lower-wage earners," says Henning Gade, assistant director of the Danish Employers' Confederation (DA).

Efforts to lower compensation to 80 percent have so far been unsuccessful, but training requirements have been implemented.

New ideas being considered include job "rotation," which calls for an unemployed person to stand in for the worker going out on skills training. Another is a "sabbatical" program, where the unemployed would replace workers who are on a leave of absence and earning 70 to 80 percent of their salary for such personal enrichment as education and travel.

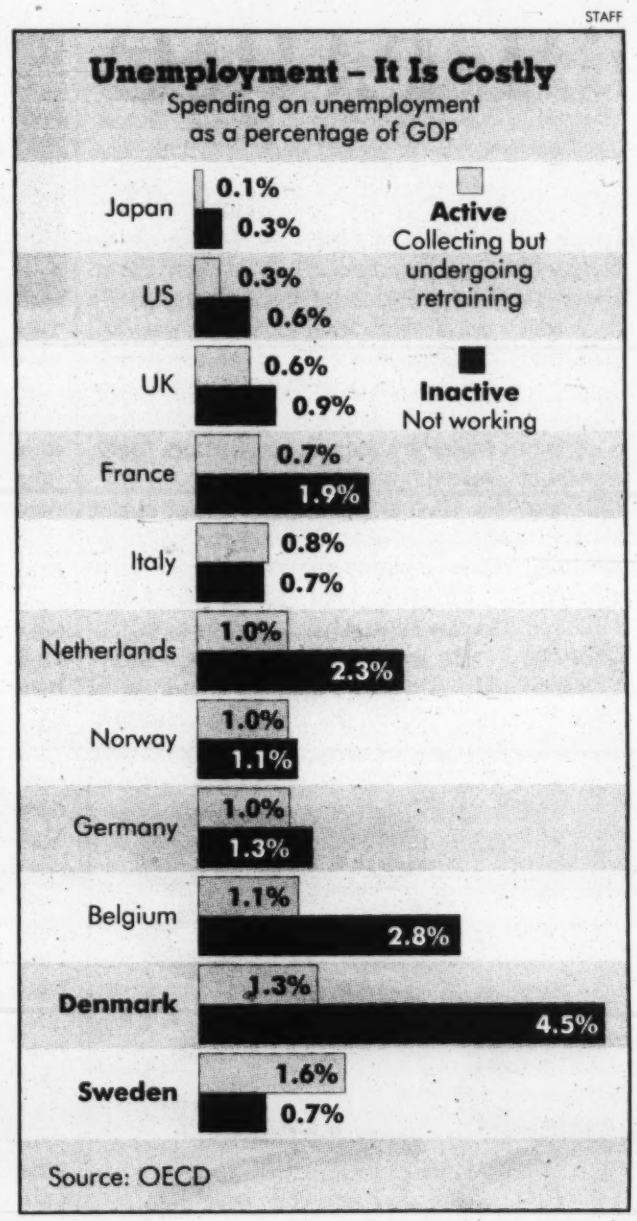
"What we like about these ideas is the new acceptance of flexibility they point to," says Kaj Ove Christiansen, labor market policy advisor at DA.

Experts do not expect to see the kind of growth necessary to start bringing down record-high unemployment until 1994, Mr. Christiansen notes.

But surveys among employers show that steps can be taken to make enterprises less leery of hiring or working with the unemployed.

"Our conclusion is to go for flexibility now," Christiansen says, "so that when growth does come back, Denmark will have a more effective labor market."

STAFF



COMMISSION TACKLES US LABOR LAWS

WASHINGTON

■ Many Americans think reducing litigation and government "red tape" in the workplace is the most important issue facing the new President's Commission for the Future of Worker-Management Relations, according to a survey by Penn & Schoen for the Employment Policy Foundation.

The public is generally satisfied with the current balance between organized labor and business, the poll shows. A small majority believes the law allowing employers to permanently replace strikers should be retained.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS EARN MORE IN '92

NEW YORK

■ Median total annual compensation (salary plus bonus) for chief executive officers was $1,050,000 in 1992, up about 8 percent over the previous year, according to a study of 136 Fortune 1000 companies by Towers Perrin, a management consulting company.

The median bonus was just over $443,000, up 12 percent from 1991. The biggest growth came in short-term bonuses rather than base salaries, says Paula Todd, manager of compensation research and development for Towers Perrin.

"The change in salary for CEOs is very consistent with the salary increases granted to lower-level employees – executives and nonexecutives alike – in 1992," Ms. Todd says.

IT'S A DIRTY JOB, BUT IT'S PROFITABLE

NEW YORK

■ The market for infant diapers grew 7.7 percent in 1992 to reach $4.5 billion in retail sales, a study by Packaged Facts, a New York research company, reveals.

The three segments in the market had very different fortunes, however. Diaper services experienced the biggest boost with a 20 percent increase. Disposables, the largest segment, grew 7 percent, and cloth, the smallest and most lethargic segment of the diaper market, remained unchanged.

Packaged Facts President David Weiss says the growth is a result of baby boomers starting families later in life, combined with a steady birth rate among younger women.

More women in the workplace and greater concern about the environment have led to the popularity of diaper services, Mr. Weiss says.

ARTS

Displays at New York's annual contemporary-furniture exposition were less about trends and more about the staying power of well-designed pieces

Whimsical Furniture With A Functional Edge

'SIERRA PINTA': *The soft-sculpted couch is inspired by geological forms. It was desig making some connections with galleries in New York' at the International Conten says. 'I'm doing a landscape piece with this one.' Formerly a partner in a Boston*

By David C. Walters
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

NEW YORK

HOPEFUL musicians head for Nashville. Aspiring actresses fly off to Hollywood. And promising furniture designers who want to be "discovered" trek to the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York.

The fifth annual event, held May 16 to 19, put long-established furniture designers such as Dakota Jackson nose-to-nose with lots of fresh faces. New designers hope to take some orders, generate media interest, or even win a contract with a big manufacturer.

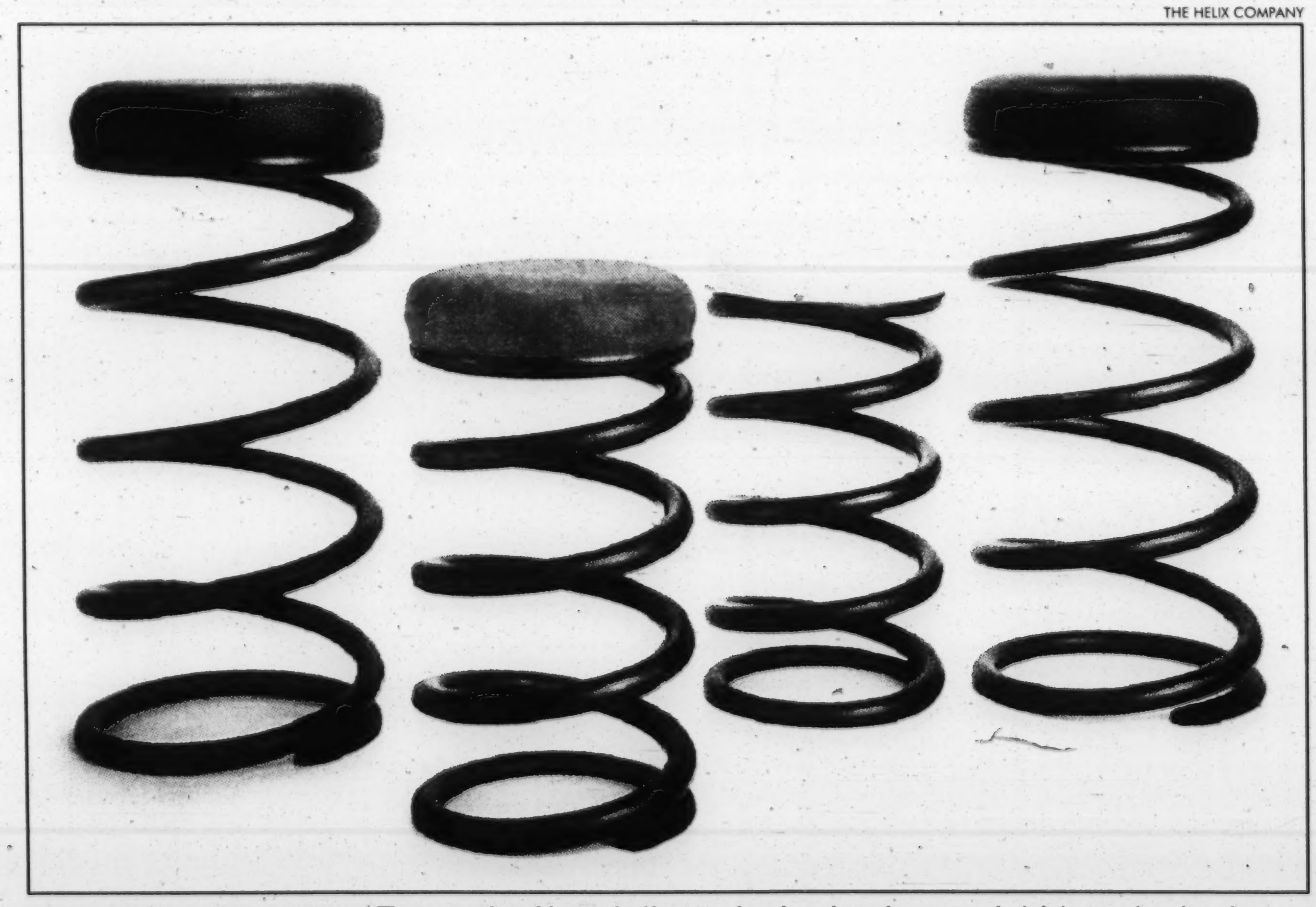
This year's new furniture looked more substantial and less trendy than some of the designs appearing in the last few years. People can confidently put most of the pieces displayed this year into their homes and not have to redecorate next season.

For the first three days of the event, architects, interior designers, retailers, and representatives of big manufacturers wandered through the jumble of new furniture creations. On the final day, the public was invited to see the 375 exhibitors' works in the cavernous Javits Convention Center. International exhibitors included those from France, Great Britain, Italy, Austria, and Japan.

Richard Glasgow, a sculptor and furniture designer from Dallas, says that his first trip to the New York show was "a hundred times better than what I anticipated."

"I was looking for exposure," Mr. Glasgow says. "It was a good place for it. In fact, I've created a monster." He sold everything in his inventory and has orders for more pieces.

THE HELIX COMPANY



STOOLS FROM THE HELIX COMPANY: *These comfortable stools (feet can be placed at almost any height) are aimed at the commercial market. The bases, made of chromium steel, are finished with an epoxy powder coat applied electrostatically. The company says the springs are similar to those engineered for industrial applications and are indestructible.*

Glasgow was having a hard time selling his sculpture in Dallas. "The market is almost nonexistent," he says. "I heard about this show, and I directed my sculpture toward furniture and just made it functional...."

This was also the first year for David Strauss, who owns his own design firm in Newton Centre, Mass. He was "counting on making some connections with galleries in New York." The fair helped him generate a mailing list of architects and designers who are interested in his work.

Aris Paganakis, of Easton, Pa., made a big splash last year with his zany cartoon-inspired chest of drawers topped with a "High Victorian" mirror. He was back this year with a collection jokingly called "Aris in Wonderland," that included a "No Standing" lamp, the "Missed Manors" chair, and the "Fat Boy" chest of drawers. The furniture curves impossibly, as if you were seeing it reflected in a fun-house mirror. It can either look delusional or delightful.

Dakota Jackson introduced a line of bedroom furnishings that is aimed at a general audience. He has always produced one-of-a-kind beds for celebrities, so his "Big Sleep" line is a departure of sorts. The lines of his bed, night table, and armoire are "full-figured," Jackson says, and are reminiscent of fairy-tale illustrations or animated cartoons.

While Mr. Paganakis's fantasy furniture is guaranteed to charm his audience, entertainment was emphatically not the order of the day at this year's show. Furniture that is calculated to bring a smile does not usually sustain the long-term style statement its designers aim to achieve.

A new '90s air of sobriety and realism was also apparent in the lack of gaudy "faux finishes" that were a design rage in the late '80s. Andrew Rouse of Anglo Inscape Inc. in New York uses interesting surface treatments in his furniture designs. He employs a process that etches silver leaf with mineral salts.

Designers are still experimenting with intriguing surfaces. But they seem to be less interested in playing games with perspective, as was popular a few years ago. Fake marbling is definitely *out*, Mr. Rouse says.

"I don't want to make a piece of furniture that's so hot for six months that it's *only* hot for six months," says Rouse, whose small company also gained from exposure at the ICFF. "We're already bidding on jobs [from the show]."

This year is the third time the Helix Company has shown at the fair. "Each year has gotten better," says R. Benson Greer, company

THE PIC
Pablo F
leather

DAVID STRAUSS DESIGNS, INC.

as designed by David Strauss of Newton Centre, Mass. who said he was 'counting on l Contemporary Furniture Fair. Furniture 'creates an environment,' Mr. Strauss a Boston law firm, Strauss recently returned to furniture design.

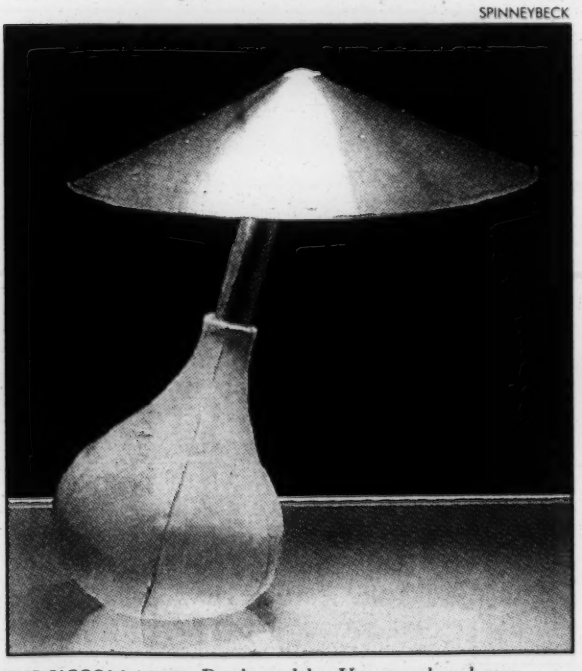
ntasy harm was f the niture smile long- gners

founder. "Attendance was up at the show."

Mr. Greer's Dallas-based firm is starting to gain a New York reputation since it's been represented here for consecutive years. "People are starting to recognize the product with our name," he says. "We're getting established."

This year Greer aimed for con-

SPINNEYBECK



THE PICCOLA LAMP: *Designed by Venezuelan-born Pablo Pardo, the weighted base covered with Italian leather can be positioned at many different angles.*

We're m the e the t the tter," npany

tract buyers, which include suppliers to restaurant and hospitality companies. "In years past, it's been architects, designers, and retail outlets around the country" that have responded to Helix exhibits, he says.

Compared to the lush and perfectly orchestrated photo spreads in design magazines, it's much harder for designers to present their work in a harsh convention-center setting. In fact, the furniture can sometimes look boring.

Yet the setting allows for a range of interaction that would otherwise be impossible. Groups of students milled through the exhibits, debating the merits of new furniture designs. A section of the convention center was reserved for furniture prototypes by design students who had won contests at their schools.

To reach out beyond the confines of the convention center, the ICFF set up displays in department store windows at Bergdorf Goodman, Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord & Taylor, and other stores.

According to several designers exhibiting at the fair, creating furniture that is both evocative enough artistically to gain attention and solid enough to take constant use is the paramount goal. At its best, contemporary furniture is art that connects directly to people's lives because they use it every day.

"The idea is to try to translate sculptural media into very accessible things for people to use," Strauss says. "It's not a jump from life to 'art.'"

Czech Cubists Found Their Way Into Modernism Through Design

NEW YORK

FROM 1910 to 1925, a small group of Central European architects launched an ambitious movement that sought to create a whole new vocabulary for architecture and design.

The architecture, furniture, and decorative objects they created are the subject of the exhibit "Czech Cubism: Architecture and Design" at the Cooper-Hewitt National Museum of Design through July 25.

Czech Cubists set out to create designs that were uniquely Czech – representing the fullness of their national identity. They wanted their work to encompass the spiritual, intellectual, and artistic essence of their times through a design language practical enough for everyday objects.

The intellectual intensity of these visionaries combined Utopian instincts with practical inclinations. Josef Gocár, whose work is widely represented in the show, adroitly translated the complicated Czech Cubist theories of the group into actual objects.

The results hold up remarkably well. While a lively couch by Gocár sits comfortably uptown at the Cooper-Hewitt museum, it could just as easily be trucked downtown and sold at a top furniture gallery tomorrow.

The exhibit was organized by the Museum of Decorative Arts and the National Technical Museum in Prague and the Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein, Germany. It traveled in Europe and North America before its current and final stop in New York.

Czech Cubists were inspired to action by the radical changes thrust on Europe at the beginning of this century. In the scientific world, man's understanding of atoms, quantum theory, and of matter itself were being buffeted by a series of new discoveries.

The material world gradually revealed that it was not as solid as it seemed to be. And the Czech Cubist designers sought ever more control over matter. In 1912, Pavel Janák wrote that man was continually delving deeper into matter "by means of science to discover its measure, physical properties, chemistry and so on. [Yet] our hearts demand that we explain its origin, reason, and place in the universe ... by lending it form."

The idea of "ordering the chaos of matter" inspired new forms. Czech Cubist creations were not ethereal, however. Everyday objects such as couches, wallpaper, and a coffee service were produced.

Josef Chochol wrote of the "emotion, fantasy, and excitement" that drove the creativity of his times. Looking back at Czech Cubism from the vantage point of 1930, Karel Taige agreed that it was "more mythology than architecture."

Milena Lamarová, who is a curator of the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, looks back with a little more perspective: The furniture is "impressive for its uncommon expressive strength, which seems to propose a new perception of space – a desire to persuade us of the possibilities of a new choreography of kinetic relationships between person, object, and space."

Viewers of Czech Cubist work at the 1914 German Werkbund exhibition in Cologne knew they were witnessing something new and exciting: "The tempestuous exhibition of the Association of Czech Accomplishment shows that a powerful fermentation is taking place," a critic wrote.

Due to the intervention of two world wars and the limited cultural exchange possible afterwards, that fermentation did not really spread.

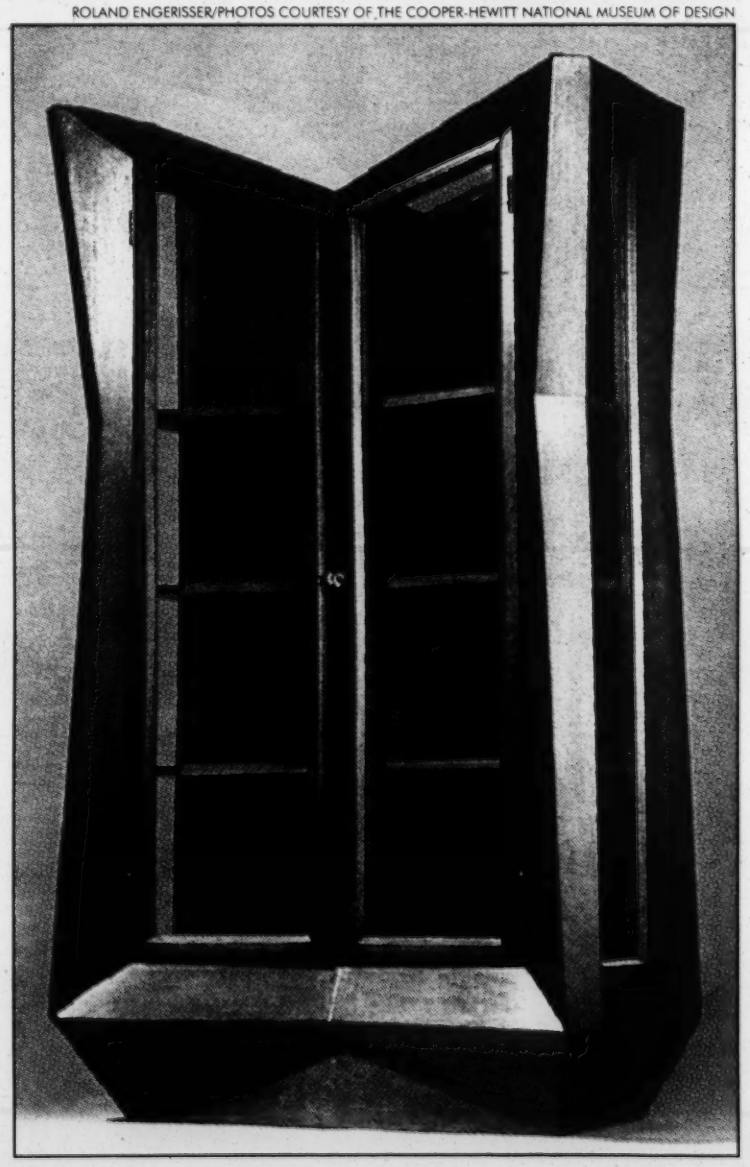
Czech Cubism has seen some interesting reverberations in the recent Post-Modern movement, however. And with continuing research and re-discovery of European roots, Czech Cubism will no doubt be resurrected in other ways as well.

– David C. Walters

NATIONAL TECHNICAL MUSEUM ARCHIVES

COFFEE SET: *Pavel Janák designed the porcelain service in 1920; the manufacturer was J. Schnabel, Desná.*

ROLAND ENGERISSER/PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE COOPER-HEWITT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DESIGN



CABINET: *The oak, mahogany, and glass piece was made by Josef Gocár and shows the strong geometric shapes of Czech Cubism.*

FOOD

Educating a New Breed of Chef

Across the nation, culinary schools are admitting a growing number of 'career-changers'

By Jennifer Wolcott
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

MONTPELIER, VT

RALPH SALES no longer spends his days driving bulldozers and operating cranes on the streets of St. Louis. Instead, he's been fine-tuning such skills as garnishing platters, boning chicken, and sautéeing vegetables in a Vermont kitchen.

Mr. Sales, a second-year student at the New England Culinary Institute (NECI), is one of a growing number of folks who are dropping their careers to enroll in cooking school.

Reasons vary: Some lost their jobs during the recession and are exploring the option of going full-time with a favorite hobby. Others yearn to work in an environment vastly different from the office job that has left them disillusioned. Still others are chasing what Money magazine, U.S. News & World Report, and other publications have dubbed "a fast-track career for the '90s."

These media reports are based on findings such as that of the National Restaurant Association and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that food service jobs will increase 30 percent and chef positions 42 percent between 1990 and 2005.

NECI's success rate alone is often enough of a lure: Five attractive job offers await every one of its graduates, says co-founder John Dranow.

Four students from this spring's recent crop of graduates have already landed sous-chef positions at Maxwell's Restaurant, Blacksburg, Va.; La Colline, Washington, D.C.; Blantyre, Lenox, Mass.; Keystone Resort, Keystone, Colo.

But to Sales, who will graduate in November after interning at Blackhawk restaurant in Kirkwood, Mo., the rosy job market is merely "icing on the cake."

The decision to leave his construction job of 15 years was triggered primarily by a desire to "nurture his love of cooking," he says during a break from making pork tenderloin in his banquet class. His growing weariness with the instability ("we never knew when we might go on strike") and hope for more appreciation ("as a cook, you're always getting a pat on the back") also influenced him to make a change.

In Mr. Dranow's opinion, Sales's situation is optimum. "If what you really want to do coincides with a tremendous job picture, that can be quite miraculous," he says.

Both Dranow and his partner Francis Voigt are career-changers themselves, having left jobs – Dranow as a teacher and Voigt as an administrator – at nearby Goddard College in 1980 to launch the institute.

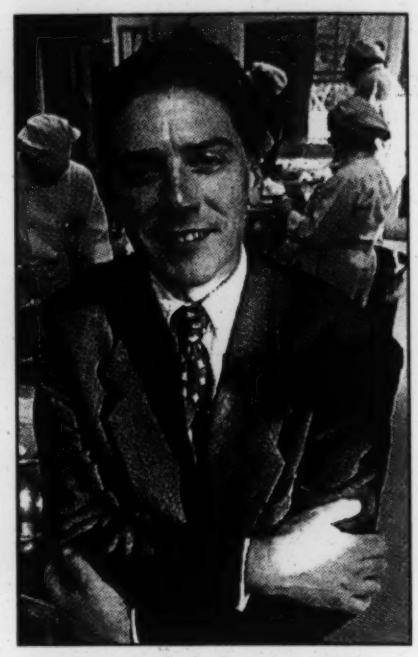
Dranow is also an accomplished fiction writer, having published his second novel, "The Magic Step," just last year. His wife is Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Louise Glück.

Dranow attributes the strong enrollment, which has grown at about 10 percent a year in the last decade among the nation's 625 accredited culinary and food-management schools, to a recession that rolled through various industries since the early '80s (first auto and steel, then farming, then oil and gas, and most recently, financial services and retail), leaving its displaced workers plenty of time for self-assessment.

With each wave NECI gained an influx of students – usually older, better educated, and more savvy to the working world, Dranow says.

Johnson & Wales College of Culinary Arts in Providence, R.I. also got a boost from the weak economy. Assistant director of public relations Linda Beaulieu has been so intrigued by this trend at her school that she's profiled some of these students for several small New England newspapers. One man was a CPA before enrolling at Johnson & Wales. "His [new] boss loves it because he not only knows how to cook, but he also understands the bottom line," she says.

Dranow explains that the decision to switch careers might have grown out of an exchange such as this: "What did you like to do? Well, I love food, and I love to cook, and I love to make people happy, and what I *really* like to do is go home with my Julia Child cookbook or my Larousse and make dinner for my friends and family."



JOHN DRANOW: *Co-founder of New England Culinary Institute.*

It's this sort of soul-searching that led Will Combes to step forward when his company, B.P. Oil in Cleveland, asked for lay-off volunteers last year.

Now, with his first six months at NECI behind him, the self-proclaimed "avid amateur" cook recently returned to his home state of Ohio.

Mr. Combes is continuing his schooling as an intern (each year of NECI's 2-year program consists of six months on campus, followed by six months off, working as a paid intern) at the newly-opened restaurant "Pastabilities," just outside Cleveland.

Whereas Sales was hard-pressed to draw any similarities between his past and present vocation, Combes says both his old job as a mid-level manager and the rigors of culinary school demand interpersonal skills as well as a keen sense of logic and organization.

Both career-changers acknowledge that, at least starting out, their salaries will be much lower than they're used to.

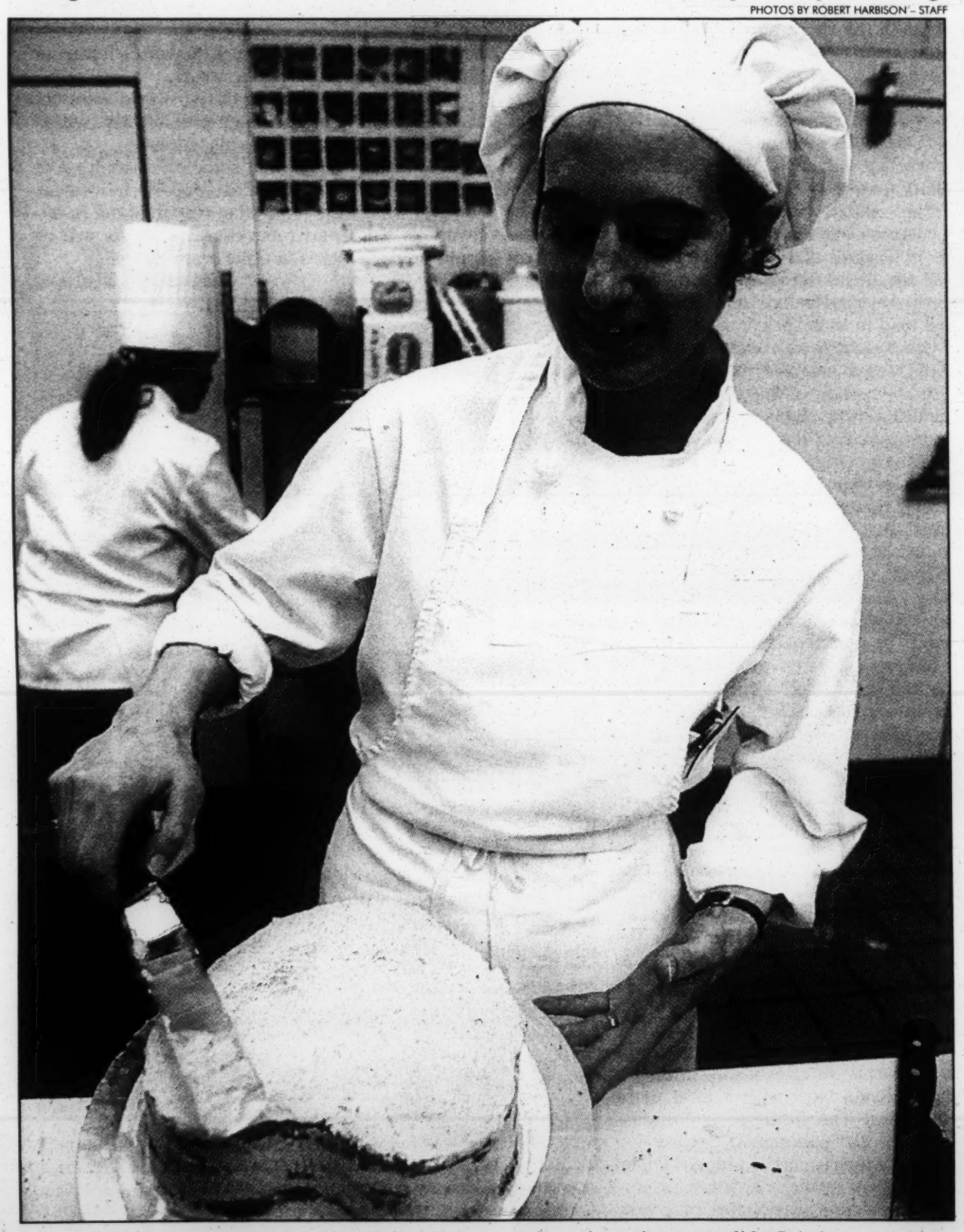
"But, what a difference in the quality of my life; I'll be doing something I really enjoy," Combes says, radiantly, during an interview in the elegant dining room at Tubb's restaurant, one of four public establishments run by NECI students in Montpelier.

According to Money magazine, the average salary for a chef is $35,000; for an executive chef it can sometimes climb as high as $200,000. But, cooking-school graduates usually start in entry-level line-cook jobs that pay between $18,000 and $20,000.

And a culinary education doesn't come cheap. At $16,175 per year, Mary Ceglarski had to take out a loan when she enrolled at NECI in 1991 after six years on the trading floor of the Boston Stock Exchange.

But the former market analyst has no regrets. Taking a break from cake decorating at the NECI-run gourmet bakery La Bri-

PHOTOS BY ROBERT HARBISON – STAFF



STOCK MARKET ANALYST TURNED BAKER: *Mary Ceglarski frosts a cake at the student-run café La Brioche.*

oche, she speaks enthusiastically about her choice and determinedly about her goals, which are tinged with altruism.

"I want to teach people about food ... to help children and people who are financially hampered," she says.

Ms. Ceglarski is inspired by the strides women have made in the culinary field, which has traditionally been dominated by men.

Topping her list of role models are Alice Waters, chef and owner of Chez Panisse in Berkeley, Calif. ("for her belief in organic and home-grown foods"); Julia Child ("she has made it easier for women to get into cooking professionally"); and M.F.K. Fisher ("for her sense of humor and view of food as a vital part of life").

Ceglarski's aspirations don't stop at chefdom; she also plans to own a restaurant. She holds no illusions about the challenges, many of which she has already faced.

"It's culinary boot camp here, much more intense than I expected," she says. When she's not poaching and dicing in the kitchen, she's researching German and French puff-pastry recipes or crunching numbers for her math homework.

But Ceglarski's efforts have already begun to pay off. Just this week, she began making appetizers, pastries, and pastas at Hemingway's in Killington, one of Vermont's two four-star restaurants where she cinched an internship for her final term at NECI.

Her new boss, Hemingway's owner and executive chef Ted Fondulas, is a big fan of career-changers . "They seem to be more centered and more mature," he says. "They have a vision or a goal, and they're clear about it."

STRAWBERRY RHUBARB COBBLER

This recipe is "a nice change of pace from strawberry rhubarb pie," writes Marialisa Calta in "Fresh from Vermont," a collection of seasonal recipes from the New England Culinary Institute and chef David Miles.

Ms. Calta suggests serving it in parfait glasses for an elegant effect.

3 cups rhubarb, cut into 1/2-inch lengths
2 cups strawberries, quartered
3/4 to 1 cup sugar, depending on ripeness of berries
6 tablespoons flour
Pinch of salt
Pinch of grated lemon zest
1/4 cup rolled oats
1/4 cup flour
1/4 cup brown sugar
4 tablespoons butter
1/4 cup lightly toasted pecans, chopped
Pinch of cinnamon

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Rub 8-inch-square baking pan with butter.

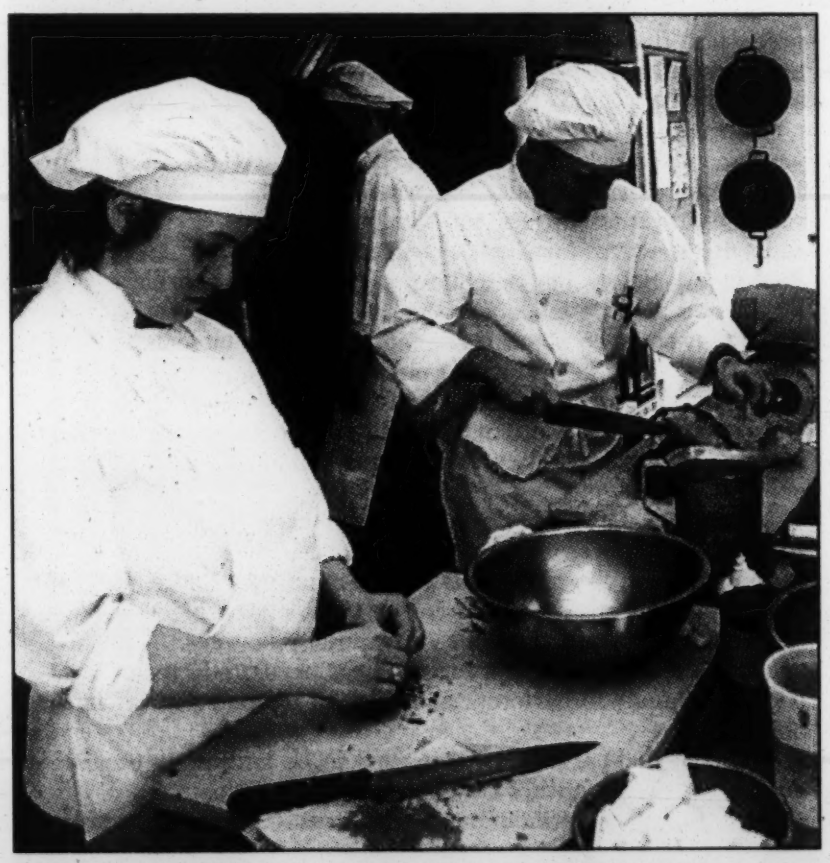
In a large mixing bowl, combine rhubarb, berries, sugar, flour, salt, and zest. Mix well and turn into baking pan.

In another large mixing bowl, combine oats, flour, brown sugar, butter, pecans, and cinnamon and spread over fruit mixture.

Bake for 30 minutes or until filling is set and topping is browned. Let cool until warm.

Top with whipped cream or ice cream.

Serves 4.



'BANQUET CLASS': *NECI students Karen Citina and Robert Lester prepare dinner for their classmates in the Montpelier campus kitchen.*

Bergman Directs Two Stage Gems

By Frank Scheck
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

NEW YORK

IT has been 10 years since Ingmar Bergman last directed a film, but thanks to the efforts of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, we are not completely denied his brilliance. For several years now, BAM has imported productions from the Royal Dramatic Theatre of Sweden that have been the directed by the master.

Late last month BAM hosted the Bergman productions of Henrik Ibsen's "Peer Gynt" and Yukio Mishima's "Madame de Sade." The plays were performed in Swedish, with simultaneous translations via headphones.

One could not ask for two more divergent productions in which to display Bergman's talents. Ibsen's verse play, not written to be staged, is a sprawling epic folk tale that takes place over 50 years ago, with locations ranging from the fiords of Norway to the deserts of Africa, from mountain tops to raging storms at sea.

THEATER

PEER GYNT
Dramatic poem by Henrik Ibsen
MADAME DE SADE
Play by Mishima.

Directed by Ingmar Bergman. Performed in repertory by The Royal Dramatic Theatre of Sweden. Ended last month at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York.

Mishima's drama is a static mood piece filled with philosophical musings but little if no dramatic action. Both problematic works have been staged triumphantly.

In this "Peer Gynt," Bergman stresses the bawdy, earthy nature of the work. Rather than cast a handsome leading man (or several actors, as is common), he employs Borje Ahlstedt, a round-faced heavy-featured performer who accentuates Peer's clownish nature.

This Peer is almost as grotesque as the characters he encounters on his life's journey, such as the Trolls and the Troll King, whose daughter is coerced into marriage in one of the many fanciful situations of the play. This brilliant comic actor creates a haunting portrait of a lost man wandering the world, and Bergman has provided a vividly theatrical setting for his rowdy misadventures. In scenes with such characters as Anitra (Solveig Ternstrom), the Rubenesque belly dancer, or the Button Molder (Jan-Olaf Strandberg), the recycler of souls who provides a chilling climax to the play, there is endless theatrical imagination.

There are unavoidable slow spots throughout the four-hour production, but just the opportunity to see this rarely staged work makes up for them. The scenic design is simple, yet endlessly inventive, as a large platform in the center of the stage doubles for everything from a storm-tossed ship to a sheer mountainside. The huge cast provides myriad delights; particularly wonderful is the unusual opportunity to see Bibi Andersson (a frequent star of Bergman's films), who plays Peer's mother. Also outstanding is Lena Endre, as Solveig, the beautiful woman who proves to be Peer's salvation.

In Mishima's "Madame de Sade," the infamous Marquis de Sade is forever the center of attention, but he is never onstage. The play is centered around the women in his life: his wife, her mother, her sister, his housekeeper, and two women, a countess and a baroness, who have been affected by him in wildly different ways. Madame de Sade (Stina Ekblad) is loyal to her husband even when she becomes entirely aware of his shocking behavior, despite the best efforts of her mother (Anita Bjork) to convince her of his worthlessness. It is only at the very end of the play, when the Marquis is finally freed after years in prison, that she rejects him.

The play, which takes place in a drawing room, spans 12 years; the final act coincides with the French Revolution. It is a dark, somber piece that explores the women as they are defined by their relationships with the Marquis, and it consists largely of declamatory speeches made by the characters while facing the audience.

But Bergman, displaying the acutely sensitive touch that he seems to have when directing women, mines the play for all its power. In this simple production, performed in front of a backdrop with various projections superimposed, each movement, each glance, conveys waves of feeling. The brilliant actresses (this is evident even with the sometimes stilted efforts of the translators) perform with an elegance that belies the passion seething beneath the surface. In its subtlety and emotional power, this production is like seeing one of Bergman's films come to life.

Chevalier Biographer Takes Up Defense

NEW YORK

A NEW biography of Maurice Chevalier refutes accusations that the French actor-singer collaborated with the Nazis during World War II.

Biographer Edward Behr says that his book "The Good Frenchman" (Random House, 400 pp, $27.50) attempts to put into perspective Chevalier's relations with the Nazis during the occupation of France.

"He's supposed to have collaborated with the Germans, performed for them, provided his services as a propagandist for Franco-German reconciliation," Behr says.

"The extent of his collaboration, if you can call it that, is that he went to Germany to give two concerts in French prisoner-of-war camps there. He gave an interview in a French literary magazine in which he said he venerated Marshal Pétain, the ex-general and World War I hero, who was leader of Vichy France [the German-controlled government of France]. I think one can be a Pétainist without being a collaborator."

While some other entertainers and artists went to parties given by the German embassy and Nazi officers, Behr says, "Chevalier did not do that.

"Paris from 1940 to '44, under German occupation, was a boom time for every form of entertainment. All the major music-hall stars performed uninterrupted to packed houses. Audiences were French and German.

"Chevalier was the star in 1941 and '42 of the Casino de Paris. He was a workaholic. All he lived for really was going out on the stage in the evening to the acclaim of beloved audiences.

"But he didn't go on in 1943 and '44. He got feedback from America that he was being considered an arch collaborator."

Chevalier was arrested by the underground French Resistance, Behr says, but, "He was able to justify himself. A resistance court later exonerated him."

Previously, there had been only two books about Chevalier. Both, Behr says, "glossed over" the collaborationist allegations.

– Associated Press

WORTH NOTING ON TV

By Alan Bunce

■ FRIDAY

On the Issues *(PBS, 9-10 p.m.)*: Just in case public TV needed still another round of talking heads chewing on trendy public-affairs issues, this four-parter – airing on consecutive Fridays – has rushed in to fill the non-vacuum. Yet despite the boredom alarm set off by the approach of these programs, it turns out that their talkers are informed, reasonably articulate, and closer to the working heart of the matter under discussion than those on many such panels. The format, familiar from certain previous debate shows, takes about 15 panelists per show through hypothetical problems drawn from actual events in their field. They are questioned by the moderator – "cross-examined" might be the word at times – about how they'd respond to this development or that. This semi-Socratic method, a kind of watered-down law-school drilling, depends on the moderator's skills (and humor) for much of its success, and in this series the moderators are well-chosen. The opening program, for instance, "Washington Under the Influence," is moderated by ABC News correspondent Jeff Greenfield, who guides his impressive group through an imaginary but not-so-far-fetched scenario about the "Chemalot Corporation" and its efforts to buy favor in Washington. The host of the series, also well-chosen, is John Chancellor.

■ SATURDAY

MonsterVision *(TNT, 8 p.m.-6 a.m.!)*: This series normally airs a marathon of campy horror-sci-fi flicks the last Saturday of each month. For June, it's giving us a 10-hour dose every Saturday, and to make it a little more palatable, it has brought in the popular – and very different – comedy team of Penn & Teller as hosts. Each evening is keyed to a theme – the first: "Very Special Special Effects," with Penn & Teller as "security guards" of the building – a format that lets them ply their comic tricks on the strange objects within (Teller fences with a life-size chicken at one point). TNT is calling the whole thing "A Simple Television Experiment Gone Completely Berserk," and it probably has.

Please check local listings, especially for the PBS program.

A Fictional Life From A to Z

By Nina Mehta

FAVORING alphabetic order over chronology in "A Fool's Alphabet," Sebastian Faulks tells the story of Pietro Russell from A to Z. A former literary editor of the Independent in London and author of two well-received novels, Faulks divides his third book into 26 chapters, each about a place beginning with a different letter. Raymond Russell, a corporal in the British Army, is injured in Anzio, Italy, in 1944, just before he meets his future Italian wife. Six years later, Pietro is born in Backley, England. Like the alphabet, this dexterous novel proceeds with patient purpose – even as it zigzags through Pietro's life, occasionally teasing readers with memories of events before they read about the events.

As a boy, Pietro tries to imagine what he would be like had he been born in Egypt or Uruguay. Realizing that his mother would have been a different woman, he soon abandons these thoughts, though his interest in the connection between locale and identity remains. The chapter Faulks sets in Jerusalem in 1982, for instance, turns into an extended essay about the relationship between territory and heritage, homeland and diaspora. More concretely, while in Paris for work in 1979, Pietro spends much of his time marveling that the "geography, climate and character" of the subterranean Métro system "bore no relation to Paris itself, to the streets he walked when he left the Métro."

Underlying these alphabetic segments is Pietro's preoccupation with chance and order. Some of the cities are significant because he lived there, others because that's where something important took place. In 1974, his girlfriend Laura ends their three-year relationship in Watsonville, a small town off Route 1 in northern California that neither of them had intended to visit. Pietro continues alone the journey they had planned, until a nervous breakdown brings him to a halt in Quezaltenango, Guatemala.

Later, in Oxford, Pietro has learned enough about emotional truth to tell his psychiatrist that their weekly topics of discussion weren't fated: "I told you about Laura, but I didn't tell you about Gabriella, did I? I never told you about India or the week I spent in Rio … . But suppose I had told you different things.... Would you have reached a different diagnosis?" The same logic applies, Faulks insinuates, to his alpha-biography.

Knowing that life is in a state of perpetual flux doesn't put Pietro at ease, but it does give Faulks more room to negotiate. Terminal 5 – the "T" chapter – is meant to suggest the lives Pietro did not lead. It takes place, reasonably, in the Los Angeles airport, a world in which time is suspended and identity is in abeyance. Waiting to return to his wife, Hannah, and their children, Pietro intuits what he will finally be able to express in the "Y" chapter, some years later: "It was in the stillness [Hannah] offered, the static point of her love, that he had found his destination."

Sebastian Faulks has written a poignant, often romantic, decep-

BOOKS

A FOOL'S ALPHABET
By Sebastian Faulks
Little, Brown & Co.
275 pp., $19.95

tively peripatetic novel. The writing is sometimes passive, but like Pietro, the author understands which "scenes could yield something of what he felt, and he also knew as soon as the shutter had fired what tricks of processing, if any, would be necessary to bring out further what he had intended." In the best sections of the book – those about Pietro's mother and those about language and perception – Faulks coaxes the reader toward the slow realization that life occurs haphazardly and progresses chronologically, but is usually remembered thematically. Or, in this case, alphathematically.

■ *Nina Mehta, a freelance reviewer, lives in Plainsboro, N.J. Readers may have detected alphabet play in the initial letters of the review's paragraphs.*

'Quality of Life' – Trade Up, Trade Off

FOR several weeks our neighbors across the street have been spending evenings and weekends packing their possessions. Neatly labeled boxes – "Kitchen," "Family Room," "Master BR" – fill a corner of the living room, waiting to be transported to a larger house. From this three-bedroom ranch 12 miles west of Boston, the couple – he a lawyer, she a banker – and their toddler son are moving to a stately five-bedroom colonial 25 miles north of the city.

As a farewell gesture, they host a Sunday afternoon get-together to introduce neighbors to the new owners. When the husband shows the assembled guests photos of their new house, he is clearly proud of his mini-estate on an acre of land and the success it symbolizes. At the same time, he makes no attempt to disguise his mixed emotions about moving. He and his wife are gaining space – lots of space – but they are losing time from schedules that are already stretched thin.

Instead of their usual 30-minute commute by train, they must now count on at least 50 minutes by car – more when traffic is heavy. "We're trading up to a terrible commute," the husband says with a rueful laugh. He sounds almost wistful when he adds, "I'm going to miss this house and this neighborhood."

Trading up epitomizes the American dream. From a newlywed couple's first apartment to a succession of ever-grander houses and cars and creature comforts, the yearning for more space and more possessions runs deep. Small may be beautiful, as E. F. Schumacher claimed in his 1970s bestseller, but big is still widely perceived as better, even if it means trade-offs like those our neighbors are making. Only in retirement does trading down – simplifying life by paring the contents of a family home to whatever will fit in a condo – typically gain a certain cachet.

Quality of life remains a subjective ideal. Some of the cities that rank highest on annual lists of "10 best places to live" can easily rank low in the eyes of those seeking different amenities and priorities.

Yet the longing for a better quality of life is what prompts frazzled workers in crowded cities to dream of running an inn in Vermont. In recent years it is also what has driven more than a million Californians to pull up stakes and point their Cherokees and Land Rovers – the late-20th-century version of covered wagons – east to resettle in the "new frontier" of Idaho and Nevada, where they hope to trade fast-lane lives for simpler pleasures, friendlier people, and safer neighborhoods.

In scaling back, these "lifestyle migrants" exemplify a growing realization that energy-efficient living involves conserving time and personal energy as much as it involves preserving natural resources.

Downsizing, the reigning corporate philosophy of the past few years, can be cruel when it is decreed by someone else and results in the loss of a paycheck. But when the transition is personal rather than professional – and totally voluntary – it can bring a satisfying new freedom.

A month before our neighbors packed up for exurbia, a colleague and his wife made a reverse move. Realizing that the two hours they spent commuting every day hardly counted as "quality time," they sold their four-bedroom house on a three-acre plot and moved to a two-bedroom high-rise in the city. They traded trees and grass and exurban tranquillity for the freedom and convenience of a short walk to work. Less hassle. More time. More control.

"Quality of life" makes a fine round phrase. It is an improvement on its predecessor, "standard of living" – a term that smelled of money, luxury cars, private schools, and elite addresses. Yet whenever the word "quality" lives up to its meaning, it has little to do with external conditions or material resources. If the real subject is a happy life, the fundamental needs tend to be loyal friends, a family in harmony, and work of interest that is worth doing.

In the scaled-back '90s, what used to be known simply as a good life may not always conform to traditional patterns of upward mobility. When trading up – "progress" – requires too many trade-offs in time and money and work, the refreshing new dictum may be: The moving van – like the buck – stops here.

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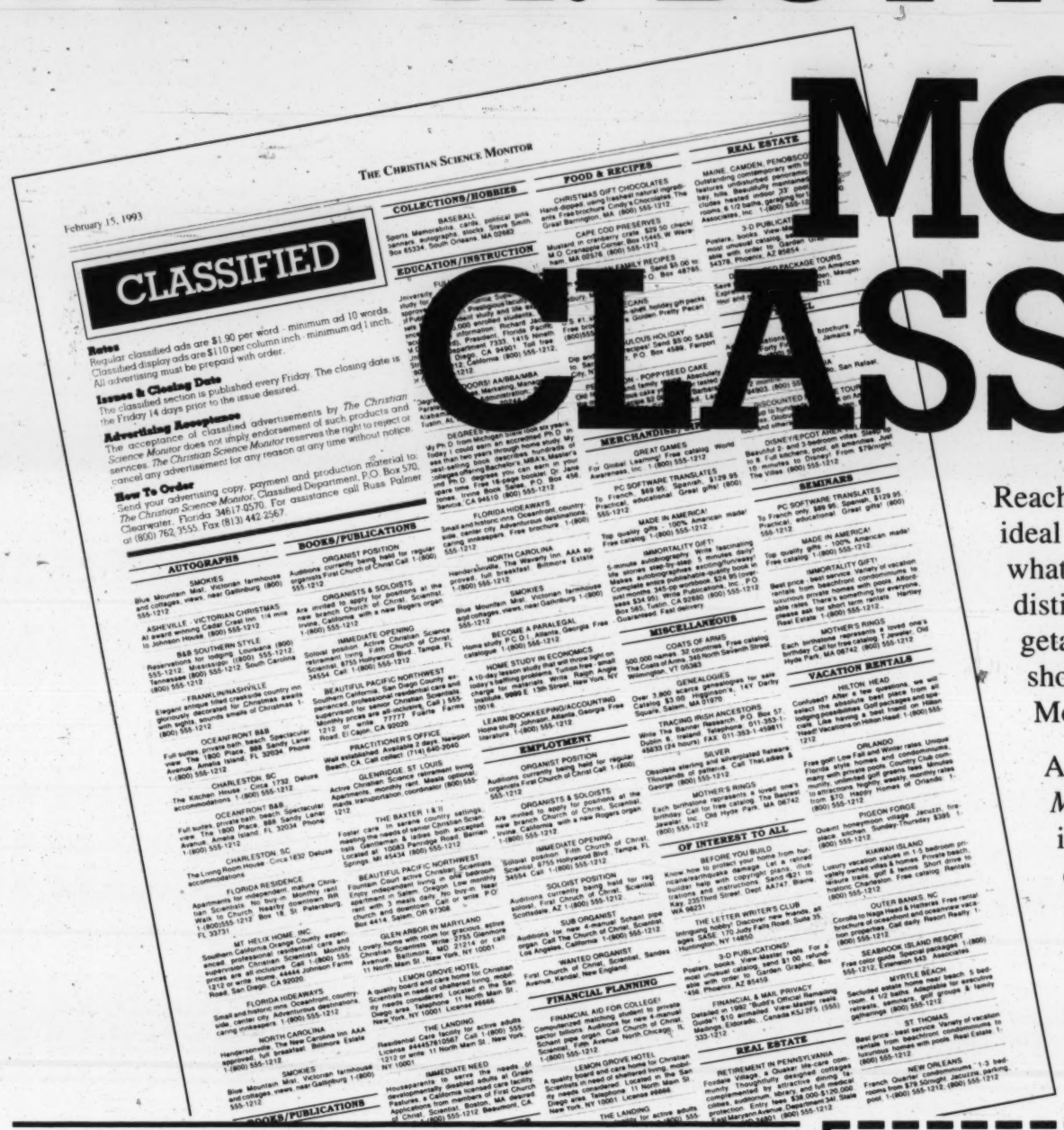

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The Home Forum

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The Poet Who Sees the World Anew

GOOD poetry is dangerous. Emily Dickinson said that it blew the top of her head off. Some people begin to shiver. But the one thing a good poem won't do is leave you exactly the way it found you.

Poetry is all about transformation – the kind of transformation a friend of mine from Texas experienced when she saw snow for the first time. She stretched out her arms and slowly spun around and around, catching the flakes on her tongue. "Now I *see*," she finally said.

But how does a poet consistently blow the top of someone's head off? How does a poet transform himself or herself?

William Stafford's newest book, "My Name is William Tell" (released in paperback this spring), was the first place I looked for an answer. Stafford has long had a reputation for using ordinary language to maintain the value of the people and places around him – to discover what it means to be alive. Many poets try to do what Stafford does, yet the result is often hollow and falsely sweet. After numerous books, how would he avoid sounding like an imitation of his earlier works?

The answer to that question is simple. Stafford surprises readers from Page 1, and he allows himself to be surprised by what he has to say. "My Name is William Tell" is about overcoming "little oppressions" – age, loss, and extinction. In the first section of the book, Stafford takes the risk of relying on mostly nonhuman speakers. Among others, we hear from a bowstring, a coyote, and several extinct species. Stafford's central yet very human challenge is spelled out in "For Later," the fourth poem:

After prayers, after
I lost my way,
I wandered here. Is
there any place
for starting again,
even if years
have passed and I
have forgotten,
after prayers, after I lost
my way?

The tone of this first section is often unsettling, and I found it strange that Stafford chose to write such "unrealistic" poems. But a careful reading proved that this approach was perhaps the only appropriate one.

Many poets have written about their own extinction and their fears for the planet to the point where these topics are almost cliché. Instead of telling readers straight out, Stafford *suggests* that he needs to establish a link between himself and the natural world. He lets readers feel the urgency he does, but he forces the audience to think about the implications of these poems.

In the second section, "Dreams of Childhood," the speaker stops looking at the outside world and looks inward. He addresses his own alleged failures as both a child and a parent, and the poems consistently refer to ways in which he has disappointed people. The speaker's inabilities are even mirrored in the actions of strangers.

This section could be seen as depressing or negative, but Stafford somewhat redeems these experiences by rendering them in a poetic way. I could still enjoy the beauty of the language, even before the poet hints at his own sensitivity and worth as a child. Further redemption takes places when the speaker becomes increasingly aware of his role "*Of hiding important things because/ they don't belong in the world.*"

In sections 3 and 4, "Our Town Owned a Story" and "Crossing the Campus," Stafford continues to make use of a powerful imagination, and the result is an interesting mix of images. At times the poems are clear and direct, with subject matter that feels very true to life. In other poems the narrative is less clear, the speaker more removed, and I felt as though I were reading fantasy or fable. These poems were striking because they were so mysterious, yet where they outnumbered the more realistic poems, they sometimes seemed like missed opportunities.

Flowers of Sophia

Flax, chicory, scabious–
flowers with ugly names,
they grow in waste ground, sidewalk edges,
fumes, grime, trash.
Each kind had a delicate form, distinctive;
it would be pleasant to draw them.
All are a dreamy blue,
a gentle mysterious blue,
wise beyond comprehension.

Denise Levertov

From 'Evening Train' by Denise Levertov, ©1990, 1991, 1992 by Denise Levertov, used with permission of New Directions Publishing Company, New York.

The strength of this book, I realized, lies in the fact that the poet is honestly grappling with difficult situations, as when he says, *"The world has overwhelmed/ my kind; the score is thousands to nothing."* in the poem "Crossing the Campus with a New Generation." But every poet has to make sure that imagination doesn't do too much work.

The final poem in this collection tranforms Stafford's statements about life both in this particular book and in the work he's done over a lifetime. Entitled "You, Reader," the poem begins *"Any night you can awake and line up with the north star"* and ends with *"Now, go back and begin again."* This line turns the whole book around by making it clear that the negative images already encountered do not have the same kind of permanence as the natural world and the life force behind it.

The poem demands that both reader and author rethink their previous experiences, yet the positive tone was so unexpected that the poet's message was not as convincing as it could have been. A poet needs to prepare readers more before undermining their sense of direction. If Stafford had only given us one more poem, a smoother transition through his mental landscape, he would have changed readers in a more lasting way.

It's so easy to say that poetry is all about listening to your most perceptive, alert, and sensitive thoughts. But really, this listening takes a lifetime to master, and it's both the challenge and the reward of creating art.

ANY book of poetry that blows the top of my head off does so because the author has consistently tapped into a higher plane. Stafford's book was a pretty good example of that, but Denise Levertov's "Evening Train" (also released this spring) is even better.

Like her peer, Levertov has made a major contribution to the shape of contemporary American poetry. But where Stafford's latest book works through the darkness of human life and then overturns it all, Levertov's collection is about the struggle to maintain peace and faith. Her opening poem, "Settling," about living on a mountain, sets up the central tension and premise. In the last three lines Levertov states that:

Grey is the price
of neighboring with eagles, of knowing
a mountain's vast presence, seen or unseen.

The book is divided into seven sections, and within their pages the poet writes about the natural world, art, her memories, people she has lost, Biblical stories, and the foolishness of war. Yet what really stands out is the even-handed tone of this collection and the newness her themes seem to have for her. Unlike some of her other books, this one feels almost buoyant, and Levertov is determined to maintain the value of all earth's creatures, herself included.

"Evening Train" demonstrates that a person can write about the same kinds of things for a lifetime, as long as she sees them always with new eyes. This means some kind of transformation before the poet sits down to write. It also means that she relies on images and evocative narratives rather than making general statements.

MY NAME IS WILLIAM TELL
By William Stafford
Confluence Press, 78 pp., $11

EVENING TRAIN
By Denise Levertov
New Directions, 120 pp., $8.95

Many of Levertov's poems work the way "Flowers of Sophia," from Section 4, does. The poem begins with a very simple list: *"Flax, chicory, scabious-"* and then encourages a certain perception of these plants with the description *"flowers with ugly names."* The poet portrays them as living in waste ground, thus reinforcing that perception. But then she surprises readers by saying *"Every kind has a delicate form, distinctive/ it would be a pleasure to draw them."* And by the last line, the waste flowers are *"wise beyond comprehension.*

This kind of simple movement, based on specific details, is at the heart of good poetry. Emotions are *suggested* by the way Levertov describes the things around her. Her language delights and surprises, and we come to trust her observations. By the time she begins talking about less concrete subjects like faith and God, we feel thoroughly grounded and satisfied that she has earned the right to lead us into this area. Her poems still rely on imagery, as in these lines from "The Tide":

Faith's a tide, it seems, ebbs
and flows responsive
to action and inaction.
Remain in stasis, blown sand
stings your face, anemones
shrivel in rock pools no wave
renews.

The only time the poet gets into trouble is when she deals with political subjects and slips back into old ways of doing things. There seems to be more political comment than poetry, and the reader is forced out of a more perceptive frame of mind.

So what then is the answer to my original question? How do poets transform themselves and their writing? The short answer can only be that they go moment by moment, with eyes open, their minds clear and willing.

Elizabeth Lund

You, Reader

Any night you can awake and line up with
the north star.
Any night disguised as a person walking
you can disappear. At the edge of town
darkness comes forward and opens its arms. That star
near the horizon burns its invitation,
"Come on." So many lakes and lost places
wait that you need no plan – there are miles of
moonlight
treasuring up waves, and reaches of earth mysterious
as Aladdin's cave. The land rolls out its own
magnificence, and you inherit whatever your eyes
can prove by their glance that they're worthy of.
You listen for music and it comes alive, even
in ordinary sound. The tone of your voice comes back
from the world enriched by all that it passes over.
And this language of ours holds it all.

Now, go back and begin again.

William Stafford

From 'My Name Is William Tell,' by William Stafford, ©1992 by William Stafford, reprinted with permission of Confluence Press, Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, Idaho.

Prayer Is Higher Than Technique

TECHNIQUE and technology are uppermost in many minds today. Knowing how to do a thing draws great respect, and for some it is as though technique were the only aspect of a subject worth considering.

But not everything is a matter of technique. While artists surely benefit from knowing how to manage the media in which they work, their artistic vision doesn't come into being through the manipulation of material forms or objects. It is a reflection of the spiritual vision that comes to us from God. Such vision lies beyond the mere learning of processes; it includes learning more of our relationship to God, the true source of the creativity we express.

We don't learn of God, Truth, however, by plugging quantities into formulas, repeating the "right words," or simply following a ritual. Equipment doesn't help, nor does any new and improved set of procedures. Christ Jesus said in the Bible, in John's Gospel: "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

The Christian Science Monitor's Religious Article

How do we worship God in spirit? Through deep sincerity of motive and dedication—a desire to do good —because God is good and we know that our goodness in aim and practice contributes to harmony for everyone. This kind of worship often includes sacrificing personal desires when we see that this self-immolation will further the cause of goodness.

Even the finest of prayers, the Lord's Prayer, is made valuable to us not by repetition but by the sincere thought we give to it. Our whole desire and motivation must be actively engaged; our real aims, our deepest faith and understanding, our most lucid profundity, must be part and parcel of our praying. This undergirding of our prayer with total commitment to its truth enables us to worship "in spirit."

Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer of Christian Science, writes in her book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, "Prayer, watching, and working, combined with self-immolation, are God's gracious means for accomplishing whatever has been successfully done for the Christianization and health of mankind."

Here is a key to understanding the concept of worshiping in spirit. To worship in this way is to wholly turn every situation over to God in our thought. It lets God's infinitely loving and effective nature take charge of our direction. This surely brings a wisdom into our experience that is beyond human wisdom. In fact it introduces us, and reintroduces us, to our true nature as God's spiritual reflection, expressing the qualities of God, our Maker, and dropping human concerns and methods.

When we find that we are praying about a problem with no results, could it be that we are "using" prayer as a technique? But when we are alerted to the need to pray "in spirit," when we are finally awakened to the need for real consecration, we can truly pray and find the regeneration we need. Then, quickly or slowly, the difficulty vanishes in the clarity and harmony that divine Love, God, provides.

Even the best "technique" is limited in its effectiveness and can even be counterproductive. Worshiping in spirit, however, gives us the what and why of our spiritual being and lies at the elemental level of spiritual devotion that regenerates. This is really a matter of dedicated lives. And the rewards come in uplifted experience and God-nurtured spiritual fruitfulness.

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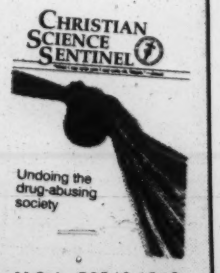


"First the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear."

EDITORIALS

Economic Doldrums

MOST statistics released this week on the United States economy have been disturbing. The government's report yesterday on the index of leading indicators showed the index rising a tiny 0.1 percent.

The Commerce Department reported a construction slump in April. After the bad weather in March, many economists predicted a pickup. Instead, construction spending took its worst tumble in eight months.

Furthermore, the US manufacturing sector grew only modestly in May after a decline in March. The National Association of Purchasing Management said a faster rate of new orders will be needed for the economy to improve at a much more vigorous pace.

Nor have Americans been acquiring the financial resources to give the recovery a good boost. They did spend more in April. Personal consumption expenditures jumped 1 percent, the strongest increase in six months. But personal income stagnated in that month after a string of four consecutive monthly increases. Economists say consumers can dip into their savings for a time to cover rising purchases. Nonetheless, stronger job and income growth will be needed to maintain a higher spending pace.

And last week's economic news wasn't any better. For one thing, the estimate of growth in national output in the first quarter was cut in half.

What's wrong with this recovery? Why doesn't it show some zip? One reason is that the cuts in defense spending are biting hard into economic activity.

Another cause could be concern about the Clinton administration's tax program, which has just passed the House and awaits Senate consideration. Deficit reduction, though welcome, means higher taxes and spending cuts, each of which can act as a drag on the economy. However, fears may be exaggerated. A study by DRI/McGraw-Hill reckons the energy tax, one important facet of the program, would reduce real national output by only 0.1 percent annually through 1998, add a tiny 0.1 percent to the annual inflation rate while it is being phased in, and contribute $69 billion to deficit reduction from 1994 to 1998. So far this fiscal year, the federal deficit is running about $10 billion behind the previous fiscal year.

Another factor in the slowdown is the trickle of new money into the economy. The Federal Reserve System has been buying a goodly amount of government bonds to boost bank reserves. But the broad measures of money have been shrinking for at least six months, an extraordinarily risky trend in a weak recovery.

The Fed seems fixated these days on an upward blip, probably temporary, in the inflation rate. It isn't paying sufficient attention to the high unemployment rate and pitiful recovery.

In the past few weeks, the money supply has started growing again. Some economists hope the growth signals more action in the economy in the months ahead. Given the uncertainty, however, the Fed should ease monetary policy again. Another recession would be most unwelcome.

A Principle Upheld

THE principle that in criminal trials prosecutors must prove their cases beyond a reasonable doubt is ingrained in most Americans. It is well known to anyone who has had the privilege of applying that standard as a juror.

Tuesday's United States Supreme Court decision affirming the principle, however, shows that even this basic tenet must not be taken for granted. That the court unanimously reaffirmed the principle is heartening; that it needed to is not.

The ruling came in a Louisiana murder case. A jury convicted defendant John Sullivan after the judge instructed the panel that, to convict, there must be left no "substantial basis" for reasonable doubt that "would give rise to a grave uncertainty" about Sullivan's guilt. The judge used these terms despite a high-court decision three years ago that held such wording unconstitutional for failing to clearly state the true burden of proof. Sullivan appealed his conviction to the Louisiana Supreme Court, which upheld it, saying that the mistake was harmless given the trial's evidence.

Sullivan then appealed to the US Supreme Court. Writing for the court, Justice Antonin Scalia held that a jury's understanding of the state's burden of proof is so critical that without it "a criminal trial cannot reliably serve its function." The trial judge's mistake, therefore, was not harmless. Sullivan's conviction was overturned.

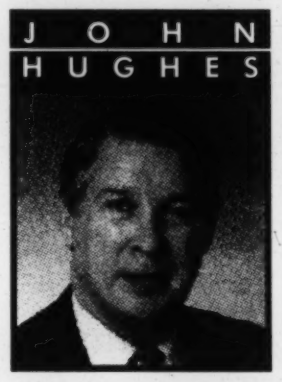
In a concurring opinion, Chief Justice William Rehnquist noted the evolving doctrine of harmless error and said he doubted whether improper instructions on reasonable doubt should be viewed as "a breed apart." We don't doubt it; the principle should be viewed that way. Tuesday's ruling also should reinforce with judges the need for clear, accurate instructions to ensure a fair trial.

Cleaning Up the Small Screen

PRESIDENT Clinton has been criticized for being too chummy with the Hollywood crowd, but if he has any influence with them he should use it to have them perform a badly needed service for the country: Cleaning up some of the violence, profanity, and pornography on television and in movies that have become a national scandal.

The president should lean on his showbiz friends to temper the sick apologia for entertainment that is often paraded before the country's youth and besmirching the American image abroad.

Do I hear charges of censorship? Stifling of the creative muse? Nonsense. Take a run through your local movie listings, as I just did for my area this week, and see what is offered up in the name of entertainment and art.



There is "Masters of Menace," billed as a comedy, in which "biker and gang do road trip with comrade's corpse."

"Doctor Mordrid" has "two 4-D sorcerers" fighting over earth's fate.

In "Donovan's Brain," "evil tycoon's brain usurps its scientist keeper."

"Creepozoids" has nuclear war survivors stumbling on a tusked monster.

Here's Arnold Schwarzenegger, that crusader for national health and fitness, promoting bizarre new kinds of terror in a couple of "Conan" movies.

And a few TV movies I am fated never to see or understand: "Caveman," in which "wimp bops dinosaur, invents rock music, lusts for cavegirl," and "Cherry 2000," in which "tracker leads yuppie to robot sex-object parts."

I haven't seen these movies. It is just possible that some have some minor redeeming features. But they sound like trash. Thankfully, some are aired in the 2 a.m. ghetto of moronic TV-watching. Others are shown in the morning or afternoon when a child who eludes the control of a parent can become a hostage to their inanity, violence, and lack of taste.

I am not arguing that the TV screen should be dominated by "Old Yeller" and "Sound of Music." But surely it is not beyond the wit of this remarkable society to screen out the worst of what is unwholesome during the hours that children and young people are mesmerized by the screen, plus reduce the level of violence across the board.

Jack Valenti, spokesman for the major Hollywood studios, says he's troubled about the spectre of censorship. But it is not censorship to ask some of the Hollywood heavies to inject a little more good taste into their industry.

What if some of the White House buddies like Barbara Streisand and Harry Thomason focused on violence in the television and movie business as well as on Bosnia and the White House travel office?

A campaign by such stars and producers against violence-laden shows – and a refusal to make them or act in them – would have a dramatic impact and, I suspect, strike a very responsive chord with the public.

A recent Times-Mirror survey found that 72 percent of those polled said there was too much violence on entertainment programs.

One of Hollywood's plaints is that it's just giving the public what they want, a doubtful premise.

Spain and Colombia recently launched aggressive campaigns to purge violence, sex, and unacceptable language from their television screens. Surely America can find a sensible way to do the same.

LETTERS

A Strike Against the Replacement Ban

The premise in the editorial "Strikers' Rights in US," May 11, which advocates protection for strikers, is wrong. The author states, "In recent years, the practice of permanently firing strikers has been on the increase." First, it is illegal to fire strikers. Being "permanently replaced" is not the same as being fired; replaced strikers have first-in-line rehire rights. According to a General Accounting Office study, only 17 percent of strikes result in use of replacements. Also, settlements often include agreements to rehire strikers.

Second, the author incorrectly suggested that use of replacements has increased. Despite the high profile of a few striker replacement cases in the 1980s, the decade was notable for a low number of cases relative to the average since the 1930s. In fact, a recent Employment Policy Foundation study should drive a nail through this myth.

The study found 229 labor board cases between 1938 and 1980 where employers invoked their right to permanently replace striking workers. Every decade since the Mackay Radio Supreme Court decision (1938), which affirmed the right to use permanent replacements, saw four to five cases of permanent replacements used annually. In the 1980s, the average number was only three to four annually.

Proponents of the bill argue that the striker replacement ban could "level the playing field" between management and labor. By incorrectly demonizing labor-management relations through the 1980s, the media carries the heavy load proponents of striker replacement cannot. Accuracy is critical to this debate.

Bradley Cameron ***Washington Employment Policy Foundation***

Letters are welcome. Only a selection can be published, subject to condensation, and none acknowledged. Please fax letters to (617) 450-2317 or address them to "Readers Write," One Norway St., Boston, MA 02115.

OPINION/ESSAYS

NAFTA and Mexico

Washington should support reforms a modified treaty could prompt

By Andrew Reding

ONE of the more insistent arguments being made on Capitol Hill for rapid approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is that it is needed to ensure stability in Mexico.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari is nearing the end of his six-year term, and is ineligible to succeed himself.

Later this year, he will name an heir-apparent who will run on the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) ticket in August 1994. Since Mexico's leadership has staked its future on NAFTA, that candidate's prospects will be hurt if the trade agreement is postponed.

That, it is suggested, could spell the end of reform in Mexico and threaten political and economic chaos.

There are many reasons to question this assessment. In the first place, none of the alternatives to the PRI threaten the country's political stability. Mexico has no armed insurgencies. Its remaining hard-line leftist parties lack popular support and, ironically, survive only because they are subsidized by the government as a counterweight to the moderate left.

Far from seeking to curtail reform, both of Mexico's major opposition parties are calling for wider reforms.

The centrist National Action Party (PAN) supports President Salinas's free-market initiatives and now seeks matching political reforms. Similarly, the center-left Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) has made electoral reform its overriding priority.

Like the PAN, the PRD proposes a "democratic revolution" to replace one-party rule with a genuine multiparty democracy.

Though the PRD and large segments of the PAN are unhappy with NAFTA in its present form, most of their objections parallel those of a majority of the United States public and members of Congress. They are concerned about the lack of protection for labor rights and working conditions.

Like Ross Perot, they do not want their country to serve as a low-wage platform that sucks jobs from the north by denying decent incomes in Mexico.

They also want guarantees that their environment will not become a dumping ground for toxic wastes. Mexico's democratic opposition is, therefore, a natural ally to reformers on Capitol Hill.

So why fear Mexican democracy? There is concern in Washington that a setback for the PRI would lead to a Cárdenas presidency.

As the son of the president who nationalized the Mexican oil industry, PRD leader Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas Solórzano evokes the prospect of a return to nationalism and state intervention in the economy.

Yet the fears are greatly exaggerated. While Mr. Cárdenas would doubtless adopt a more independent foreign policy, his primary strategy for raising incomes would be to dismantle the present government's draconian controls over labor unions and wages.

Cárdenas' commitment to democracy, moreover, would limit his freedom. The man Mexicans call "Cuauhtémoc" is far more popular than his party. Should the PRI falter, Cárdenas would almost certainly have to share power with a Chamber of Deputies dominated by the PAN, which is far better organized at the state and local level, and a Senate still run by the PRI, since only half the Senate is up for election in 1994. That would lead to genuine multiparty democracy and a separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches for the first time in Mexican history. It would also mean that Cárdenas' more liberal economic tendencies would be checked by Congress as well as the prospect of a PAN victory in the next presidential election.

The beneficial effects of a more measured approach to concluding NAFTA extend to the internal politics of the PRI.

The three top contenders in the internal power struggle now underway are Finance Minister Pedro Aspe, Minister of Social Development Luis Donaldo Colosio, and Mexico City Mayor Manuel Camacho Solis. All would, in broad terms, hold to the government's current economic policies. Yet they would diverge on political reform.

Quick approval of NAFTA would bolster Mr. Aspe, an economic technocrat who is seen as representing continuity with President Salinas' policies.

Moderate complications would help Mr. Colosio, a political wheeler-dealer who heads a ministry that hands out patronage grants to the poor.

More-substantial delays and modifications, on the other hand, would tend to favor Mr. Camacho. Trained as a public-policy analyst, Camacho has cultivated an image as a negotiator willing to bargain with the opposition. Since political reform threatens the entrenched position of the PRI, Camacho is not a favorite of the party establishment.

Yet Camacho's star rises to the extent that the PRI's fortunes drop, making him an alternative to outright loss of power to the opposition.

Strange though it may seem, the prospects for reform in Mexico, both within the ruling party and the political system, are inversely related to prospects for speedy approval of NAFTA.

That suggests we should proceed with care, giving due attention to the labor and environmental safeguards desired by solid majorities in Canada, the US, and Mexico.

IF a relaxed timetable does not suit Salinas's political aims, that shouldn't be our concern. Salinas, after all, soon will be political history. The worst that could happen is that Mexican reformers inside and outside the PRI will find their hands strengthened.

More important than the speed with which NAFTA is implemented are the basic conditions that will determine its ultimate success or failure. Those include enforcement of comparable labor and environmental standards essential to creating a level playing field for economic competition, and for ensuring that the benefits of economic integration will be enjoyed by all.

In the end, the most reliable way of guaranteeing such enforcement is through democratic reform that will allow Mexicans to defend their own rights through the checks and balances afforded by clean elections and a genuine multiparty system.

It is therefore peculiar to see members of Congress, not to mention some members of the Clinton administration, wanting to help preserve one-party rule next door, even as such systems fall into global disrepute.

Should we not have more faith in democracy? Anything less would be insulting to our Mexican neighbors and prospective NAFTA partners.

■ *Andrew Reding directs the North America Project of the World Policy Institute at The New School for Social Research.*

Clinton Correct Not To Lead On Bosnia

By Pat M. Holt

PRESIDENT Clinton is getting a bum rap on Bosnia.

Critics complain that Mr. Clinton gave in to European allies in a plan that acquiesces in Serbian "ethnic cleansing." Would they prefer that he tell Europe to bug off, and that he intervene unilaterally in what has become not a two-way, but a three-way, civil war involving Serbs, Muslims, and Croats?

Clinton has avoided injecting the United States in a quagmire that would make Vietnam look simple. It is too bad our European allies would not agree to doing more, but the important thing is that we are proceeding together. The worst thing that can be said about the administration's Bosnia policy is that the Serbs have welcomed it. If the Serbs like it, there must be something wrong with it. And there is. It accepts de facto, at least temporarily, Serb conquests that have been achieved by atrocious Serb behavior. But the Serbs are hurting from the United Nations' economic sanctions, and they can be made to hurt more.

Another drawback to the administration's policy is the political price the US will have to pay in the Muslim world where we will be seen as acquiescing in persecution of Bosnian Muslims.

Clinton is being criticized for not being decisive, for not rallying the allies to follow American leadership and set matters right in what used to be Yugoslavia. Unflattering contrasts have been drawn with President Bush's leadership when Iraq invaded Kuwait. Aside from the fact that the two situations are not comparable, let it be remembered that Mr. Bush wavered a bit himself until he was egged on by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. One of Mrs. Thatcher's entourage later talked of the successful completion of a backbone transplant.

As infuriating as the Serbs are, they are no worse than the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia in the years following the US withdrawal in 1975.

From her perch in the House of Lords, Lady Thatcher is now hurling verbal thunderbolts at the Serbs; but John Major, her successor as prime minister, takes quite a different view.

The most appropriate entity to deal with the breakup of Yugoslavia has always been NATO, in harmony with Russia if possible, without Russia if necessary. But NATO has had no stomach for direct action, either in the beginning (when Bush was president) or currently (when Clinton is president). When Clinton sent Secretary of State Warren Christopher to try to get NATO and Russian support for sterner measures, Mr. Christopher got a different response in every capital, but in no capital was it enthusiastically affirmative.

The plan, which emerged from an ad hoc meeting of American, British, French, Russian, and Spanish foreign ministers in Washington, is something on which four major countries agree. That is progress, however modest.

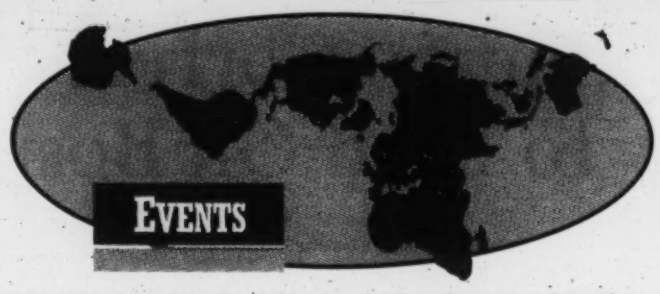
The plan met bipartisan criticism in the Senate. But that only proves the Senate is hard to please in matters of foreign policy.

For a more assertive policy in Bosnia, Clinton needed to do more than rally the allies. He needed to rally Congress and the American people. Would those who are criticizing the present outcome have supported such an effort? It seems unlikely.

The coincidence of the opening of the Holocaust Museum in Washington and stark TV pictures of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia presented a strong temptation to intervene with force even if we had to do it alone. The president is to be commended for resisting this temptation. As infuriating as the Serbs' behavior is, it is no worse than what the Khmer Rouge did in Cambodia in the years following the US withdrawal in 1975. And the US did nothing.

The US cannot impose itself all over the world. We can and should join others – in the UN, NATO, or other international organizations – to help in this endless task. But the fact that we are the only remaining superpower does not mean that we have established world hegemony. Nor should we try to.

■ *Pat M. Holt is a former chief of staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.*



SERBIA OPPOSITION LEADER ARRESTED

Serbia's main opposition chief was arrested yesterday after playing a leading role in a night of bloody street clashes in Belgrade in which one policeman was killed and 16 others wounded, in addition to several civilians. It was the largest anti-government protests in Belgrade in more than two years. Police arrested Vuk Draskovic, his wife and other Serbian Renewal Movement officials after a crowd tried to storm the parliament building late Tuesday. They were protesting the ouster of federal president Dobrica Cosic, the beating of an opposition deputy by a hardline nationalist in parliament, and worsening economic conditions.

UN mission to Zaire

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will send a fact-finding mission to Zaire, the Belgian Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

The government of President Mobutu Sese Seko on Friday denied knowledge of the decision. Belgium, Zaire's former colonial ruler, France, and the United States back the Tshisekedi government and have been seeking ways to force Mobutu to respect the democracy process.

New home sales soar

Sales of new homes in the US soared 22.7 percent in April to the highest level in more than six years, the US government said yesterday. Sales more than doubled in the Northeast and posted double-digit gains elsewhere.

The Northeast and South had lost sales during a blizzard a month earlier. The departments of Commerce and Housing and Urban Development said sales of new single-family homes in April totaled a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 751,000, up from a revised 612,000 a month earlier. The government initially estimated sales at 637,000 in March.

Cambodian election

With 80 percent of ballots counted, the pro-West opposition took a strong lead yesterday in Cambodia's UN-organized election, but the government showed no signs it would gracefully transfer power. So far 3.87 million ballots had been counted from the election, which concluded last Friday.

France, Germany on Bosnia

France and Germany stressed yesterday that they regarded the Vance-Owen peace plan as the only valid solution to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In a joint statement issued at a summit in the French town of Beaune, the two countries said they regarded last month's controversial Washington accord as only a first step toward enforcing the plan drafted by international mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance.

Indian violence

The army was called out in Bombay yesterday to calm tensions after a leader of India's main opposition Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was gunned down by an assassin on a Muslim holiday. A police spokesman said around 1,500 soldiers had been deployed in Muslim-dominated areas of the city.

Mourners marched in a funeral procession yesterday behind a truck carrying Sharma's body through the streets of his south Bombay constituency, accompanied by police. Streets of Muslim-dominated areas were deserted. A police spokesman said there were no reports of violence and a bicycle shop owner had been arrested in connection with the murder.

Election in Paraguay

Congress formally declared Juan Carlos Wasmosy the winner on Tuesday of May 9 balloting, the first democratic elections in Paraguay's 182-year history. Mr. Wasmosy will be sworn in as president Aug. 15 for a five-year term. His Colorado Party got 39.9 percent of votes; liberal candidate Domingo Laino got 32.1 percent; and independent Guillermo Caballero Vargas received 23.1 percent.

Nazi trial in France

A French appeals court ruled yesterday that Nazi collaborator Paul Touvier should stand trial for crimes against humanity committed during World War II, the first time a Frenchman will be tried on such charges. The court ordered that Mr. Touvier be tried for his role in the execution of seven Jewish hostages as revenge for the Resistance assassination of Vichy Propaganda Minister Philippe Henriot.

– Compiled by Shelby Siems

SARAJEVO
HEARD THE LATEST? WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE SAVED BY SOMEONE NAMED DAVID GERGEN...
DANZIGER
The Christian Science Monitor

US wheat farmers fret about more imports from Canada, Mexico – a letter from Casselton, N.D.

Free Trade Worries

By Laurent Belsie
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

CASSELTON, N.D.

NICK and Tom Sinner Jr. have the kind of farm office you'd expect in rural North Dakota: a small room in a barn, with huge, polished horns mounted over the desk and a wall clock showcasing grains. About the only signs of the outside world are the telephone and a dirty computer terminal linked to a satellite dish propped up on concrete blocks outside.

But don't get the wrong idea. It's hard to find an area of the world that doesn't directly affect the Sinners's farm. Like many Americans, they worry about free trade.

Europe? "The Europeans have dumped their production and affected us here," Nick Sinner says.

Mexico? The proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) could ruin the market for the Sinners's sugarbeet crop. A clause in the treaty could allow Mexicans unlimited access to the United States market.

Cuba? Opening trade with the nation could spell disaster for US sugar producers.

More open trade has its pluses. "We know we have the soybeans that are used in tofu," Nick Sinner says. This year they shipped soybeans to Japan. Last year, they exported to Dubai. "We are looking at export markets," he says.

The problem is that the minuses of free trade loom much larger than its pluses – at least for the moment. North Dakota's battle with Canada over durum wheat is symptomatic of what farmers here are seeing.

North Dakota is the nation's leading producer of durum, a type of wheat that is used to make pasta. Traditionally, little wheat crossed the US-Canada border because both countries produced more grain than they consumed. US and Canadian farmers had a kind of informal agreement that they wouldn't sell into each other's markets.

All that changed when the US-Canadian Free Trade Agreement came into being in the 1980s. Canadian durum has swamped the North Dakota industry. In the first 10 months of this crop year, for example, Canadian durum imports into the US were nearly seven times the total imported for the entire 1986-87 crop year.

"It has really depressed the durum industry in North Dakota," Tom Sinner says. The traditional 15 to 40 cent premium for a bushel of durum has disappeared, so the Sinners have cut back production by two-thirds. Durum acres this year in the upper Midwest are now less than half what they averaged in the 1980s. The Sinners are joining a new cooperative that will operate a pasta plant in North Dakota. That will help, but it won't restore the state's durum industry.

"It's not only durum," says Neal Fisher, deputy administrator of the North Dakota Wheat Commission. Canadian spring-wheat imports into the US will almost certainly double last year's record.

Canada has also surpassed the US as the leading wheat exporter to Mexico, thanks to its monopoly marketing system and, the US charges, transportation subsidies. Yet, the binational board that hears such complaints has sided with Canada.

Suddenly, North Dakota farmers aren't so optimistic about freer trade with Mexico, Mr. Fisher says. "There's been a very dramatic shift – in the last six to eight months in particular – away from NAFTA."

Canadians worry, too, says Bob Roehle, a spokesman for the Canadian Wheat Board. Trade tensions with the US might force Canada to give up its unique marketing system, which has served farmers well. Tom Sinner sees the same dilemma. "We are willing to try to compete with them on a level field," he says, "but how do you do it? How do you eliminate decades of government policy?"

The answers are coming far too slowly for rural North Dakotans.